

Government faces financial disaster with funding pressures weighing down a depressed economy

Major outlines spending rethink as cash crisis looms

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

THE prime minister yesterday outlined to the Commons the thinking behind the most fundamental review of public spending since the early 1980s, which could radically change the shape of public provision by the next century.

"The government spends over £250 billion a year of taxpayers' money," Mr Major said. "It is necessary to look very closely at how that money is spent, where it is spent and to ensure we get the best possible value for every pound that is spent."

A range of pressures, magnified by the recession, has forced the government into a comprehensive study of every Whitehall department. Manifesto pledges to increase spending on health services in real terms and to raise child benefit and state pensions in line with inflation commit the government to huge increases in spending in the next four years.

Against this Mr Major is struggling to keep to his commitment of "making further progress" to lowering the basic rate of tax to 20p.

The government spends £14.5 billion on the jobs, about £350 million for every 100,000 people unemployed, with the result that public borrowing is expected to approach £50 billion next year. The number of elderly people is also increasing, putting particular pressure on health and social security budgets.

The Treasury claims that current pressure on finances is largely due to the cyclical effects of the recession. How-

ever, some independent commentators blame the current economic crisis on a misreading of growth trends in the mid to late 1980s. Confident that the high growth rates during that period would continue into the 1990s, the last Conservative government cut taxes too quickly and increased public spending too generously, they argue.

THE social security budget, which accounts for a third of public spending, will be subjected to enormous pressure in the short and long term. Public spending on benefits is already expected to rise from £79.8 billion in 1993-4 to £87 billion in 1995-6, under existing plans that do not take account of unemployment projections.

Unemployment, currently costing the government £14.5 billion, will rise during the next 18 months to about 3.5 million people, adding at least £2.5 billion to the budget next year. Present social security estimates, based on 1991 costs, suggest that every 100,000 people unemployed costs £350m, but this is expected to rise to £500m with benefit rises due to be disclosed tomorrow.

Invalidity benefit, paid to the sick unemployed, has risen from £2.5 billion to £6 billion since 1987.

More than half of the £80 billion social security budget is spent on elderly people. The

increase in the number of over-65s is predicted to slow during the next decade before rising again in the next century. The number of over-85s will rise significantly, however.

Peter Lilley, social security secretary, is now focusing on pension reforms that could lead to huge savings in the next century. Making the retirement age 65 for everyone would raise about £3 billion and changes to encourage people to opt out of the state pension could raise £7 billion, according to social security sources.

The government is acutely aware that the number of people working compared with those on state pensions is expected to fall dramatically in the next 30 years due to the increase in the number of elderly. In 1990 there were 3.4 people working for every pensioner but this is expected to drop to 3.1 in 2010.

GOVERNMENT pledges to increase health spending in real terms throughout this Parliament were honoured in the Autumn Statement, but may prove too generous in later years.

Health spending grew rapidly between 1989 and 1992, partly to counter a damaging squeeze in the mid-eighties, and several members of the cabinet were reluctant to give Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, extra money for the next financial year.

Health authorities are al-

ready saying they have run out of funds for this year and next year is likely to be much tougher. The combination of medical innovation and a growing elderly population will lead to further demands for better services.

Mrs Bottomley is putting forward ideas first raised by Lord Moore, former social services secretary, who called for more joint ventures with the private sector including hospital hotels.

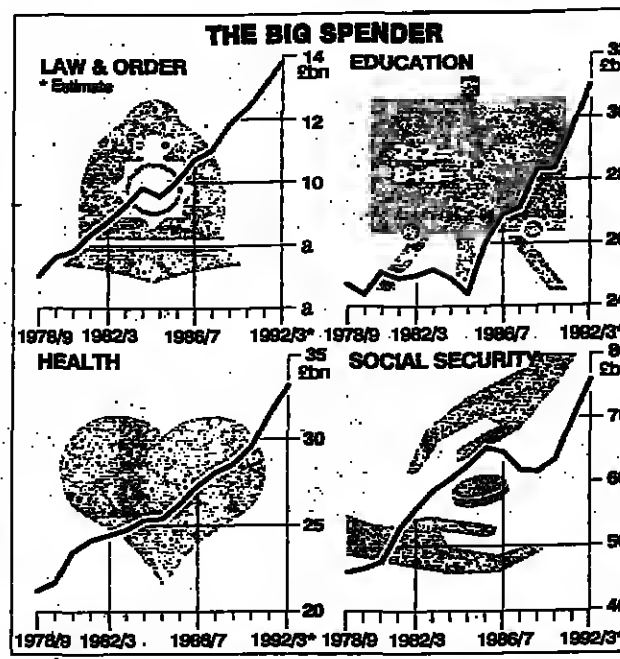
Health service spending in England is set to rise from nearly £22 billion in 1993-4 to £23.4 billion in 1995-6.

BIG rises in young people going into higher education and half empty schools are putting extra pressure on the education budget.

The education secretary is committed to increasing resources on higher education in the next three years, an area which accounts for £6 billion a year. It is estimated that more than one in four young people entered higher education in 1992-3. Another 222,000 further education places have been pledged over the next three years.

Spending on grant maintained schools will rise as more schools opt out of local council management. There are 400 grant maintained schools, which is expected to rise to 1,500 next year.

The education department spends £10 billion of the budget and a further £17 billion is spent by local authorities. The government also faces big repair costs on schools, many of which were built in the 1960s and are showing signs of serious wear and tear.



Spending will rise to £6.5 billion by 1995-1996. However, the improvements have been at the expense of police salaries which will be subject to the 1.5 per cent public sector pay ceiling.

Mr Clarke is determined to introduce sweeping reforms in an attempt to get better value for money from the police as he did with health and education services. An enquiry announced last May will look at pay structures, rewards and efficiency to see if savings can be made.

The prison service is also an expensive burden on the state and is considered ripe for privatisation. From April the prison service will become an agency.

A maze too far for the government

MICHAEL Portillo, chief secretary to the Treasury, is trying to find his way out of a maze that the Treasury has unsuccessfully sought to escape from several times since 1979. The in-depth reviews of public spending are not as startlingly novel as the current row implies. Rather, they are a new approach to an old predicament — the seemingly inexorable growth of core spending programmes.

Governments make spending decisions each autumn, but these concentrate on changes at the margin, seldom making much difference to long-term trends. There is usually neither the time nor the will for more fundamental reviews of whether programmes are needed. From the Heath era onwards, Treasury officials have talked about "zero-based budgeting", though little has happened.

Geoffrey Howe, when he was chancellor, attempted a comprehensive review in 1982. The Treasury projected possible spending trends for 1990. On the assumption of low economic growth, the share of national income taken by spending would stay at 47 per cent, though on a more optimistic projection it might fall to just below 40 per cent. This was the ratio actually reached in 1990. However, the Treasury regarded the optimistic view as unrealistic and suggested that the pessimistic scenario might imply either a basic income tax rate of 45 per cent or a single VAT rate of 25 per cent.

The then think-tank (the Central Policy Review Staff) produced a paper raising options such as education vouchers, the replacement of part of the National Health Service by compulsory private insurance, and the cancellation of the Trident programme.

The result was, according to Lord Lawson in his autobiography *The View from Number 11*, "the nearest thing to a cabinet riot in the history of the Thatcher administration". The Think Tank report was shelved.

This episode made the Treas-

PETER RIDDELL

Pond life spawns frogs and toadies

Do you know, reader, what Betty Boothroyd thinks the word "pillcock" means? Or what Bill Walker wears under his kilt? You shall learn. But, first, to defence questions...

These proved fun, thanks to Newcastle's Nick Brown (Lab). Brown's question about Britain's amphibious programme was serious, but the defence secretary caused chuckles. "Amphibiousity," said the learned Mr Rifkind, "continues to be a very important asset."

He should know. Mr Rifkind resembles one of those South American tree-frogs that climb up your bedroom wall in Brazil and stare at you in the night, eyes bulging with a look of mild, donnish surprise. When next we meet him we must search the ends of his fingers for sticker-pads. His reply demonstrated the very amphibiousity he endorsed. It was neither one thing nor the other. He sort of endorsed the concept of a sea-going helicopter carrier, and sort of did not. It would have to be "considered on its merits," he concluded, not venturing an opinion as to what these were.

Other ministers, too, went for the amphibious option. Take junior minister Jonathan Aitken, more of a pond-frog. Once a key Euro-rebel, Mr Aitken now has a ministerial post and has completely submerged. He monitors the scene these days with just one eye appearing briefly above the surface of the Westminster pond. Responding yesterday to an invitation from Chelmsford's Simon Burns (Con) to tell us the good news about Britain's arms exports, Aitken marvelled at his prime minister's "superb negotiating skills". Whether a frog can toady is for zoologists to say.

David Evans (C, Welwyn & Hatfield) can only be

compared to a bullfrog. When he bellows he puffs up to twice his normal size and the whole swamp hears. The volumes at which Evans roars lie at the upper limits of the tolerance of the human ear, where sound distorts, but "Ukraine" and "crackpot" were discernible. By coincidence the Ukrainian president was in Britain on a visit yesterday. Evans's colleague, Ian Taylor (C, Esher), remarked: "He may well have heard my bon friend's question." Had President Kravchuk been present it is hard to say which he would have found more remarkable: David Evans or Bill Walker.

Mr Walker (C, Tayside N) strutted up to Labour wolf whistles, in a kilt. "I stand before you, Madam Speaker, wearing the dress of Highland Scotland." We were happy to take this on trust, but not Sir Nicholas Fairbairn (C, Perth & Kinross), who told the Chair on a point of order that this kilt was not Walker's national dress; and worse — "I have reason to believe that under it he is wearing little red underpants". Walker was wearing a little red face.

Fairbairn desisted but for the episode seemed to have aroused the sneak in his colleague, Barry Porter (C, Wirral S). Porter sits opposite Labour's Terry Lewis (Worsley), famous for his outrage over BT's 0800 porn-lines. Mr Lewis, Porter told the Chair, had "used the word 'pillcock' not once, not twice, but four times". It seems he provides a parliamentary pillcock-line, and Porter wanted Miss Boothroyd to ban it. Did she know what this word meant, he asked?

To our great surprise, Miss Boothroyd replied that she had not the least idea what pillcock meant. Funny, that. She's in charge of 650 of them.



Freedom mission: Julie Ride and her son, William, after visiting her husband Paul

Families visit pair jailed in Iraq

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

TWO Britons, jailed in Iraq over a holiday last May, returned to their hotel after visiting Abu Ghraib prison, the relatives looked cheerful. They are very well looked after, Mr Ride's wife, Julie, said. Holding her 23-month-old son, William, Mrs Ride said the visit went "very well". Asked if the mission would result in freedom for the two, she said: "We can't say that."

The visit was seen as an attempt by Iraq to put forward better relations with the West, and at the same time put pressure on Britain to release assets frozen until Iraq complies with UN resolutions imposed under the Gulf war ceasefire. Iraq has refused court appeals against the convictions, meaning the men can be freed only by a pardon from President Saddam.

In the party, which arrived on Monday, were Mrs Ride and her son, Mr Wainwright's mother, Iris, and his sister, and Michael Whitlam, director general of the British Red Cross, who said the men were looking "fit and well".

The letter sent to *The Sun* claimed the newspaper had infringed the Queen's copyright when it published her 787-word speech on December 23 in which she spoke of the "difficult days" she had faced in 1992.

Buckingham Palace said yesterday that officials were unaware the newspaper had formally responded to Sir Matthews's letter, although it did know of the newspaper's statement.

Queen to issue writ against The Sun

By Bill Frost

BUCKINGHAM Palace announced last night that the Queen's solicitor is to issue a writ against *The Sun* over the premature publication of her Christmas message.

A lawyer for *The Sun*, earlier confirmed that any legal action brought by the Queen for breach of copyright would be opposed in the High Court.

A second courtroom confrontation between the press and the Establishment was signalled yesterday when *New Statesman* & *Society* said it would fight libel actions brought against the magazine by the prime minister and Clare Lattimer, the caterer.

The *Sun* had been given seven days to respond to a letter from Sir Matthew Farrer, the Queen's solicitor, demanding damages and costs after it published the text of her speech two days ahead of transmission. As the deadline ran out yesterday, Daniel Taylor, company solicitor for *New Statesman* & *Society*, said the newspaper would resist any legal proceedings that might follow.

The *Sun* is surprised by the decision to seek substantial damages and costs against the newspaper over the publication of the Christmas day broadcast, Mr Taylor said. "The *Sun*, regrets that Her Majesty has been advised to bring a lawsuit in her own courts for publication of the Christmas day message two days before the due broadcast date. The threat of legal proceedings appears to *The Sun* to lack a sense of due proportion."

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Salmonella hens slaughter halted

Compulsory slaughter of laying hen flocks infected with salmonella is to end, even though reported cases of humans being poisoned by the form of the virus mainly associated with eggs and poultry are at the highest level on record. John Gummer, the agriculture minister, told the Commons yesterday he had decided to act on the advice of a scientific committee which has been investigating the link between salmonella and eggs for the past three years.

The policy was adopted early in 1989 in the wake of the claim by Edwina Currie, then the junior health minister, that "most of the egg production" in Britain was infected with salmonella. The committee suggests that unhygienic handling of eggs in domestic kitchens, shops and catering premises is the main cause of poisoning rather than contamination at source.

Irishmen remanded

Two Irishmen were remanded in custody until March 4, yesterday, charged with conspiracy to cause explosions. Martin Colombia McMahon and Liam Robert Francis Heffernan, both 30, were also charged with conspiring to steal explosives and possessing a loaded revolver. They did not speak during their five-minute appearance at Arbour Square magistrates' court, east London, which follows their arrest on Sunday near Wells, Somerset and which was accompanied by tight security.

Sword victim recovers



Det. Sgt. Bob Window, right, being reunited yesterday with David Gault, the surgeon who sewed back his hand after it was severed by an attacker with a Samurrai sword. Det. Sgt. Window returned to Mount Vernon Hospital, in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, and demonstrated how movement was slowly returning to his fingers. He said that the injury was causing little pain. Mr Gault led a team of surgeons in a 12-hour operation to sew back the hand. A man is awaiting trial for attempted murder.

Short backs Britain

Nigel Short has supported a bid to stage his world chess championship match against Gary Kasparov in Britain. Short said he would not play in Belgrade, which has submitted a bid with Sofia worth about £3.85 million. The only other bid is from Santiago de Compostela in Spain, offering £400,000. Adam Black, of the British Chess Federation, said both bids were defective, and he hoped a British offer could come through the middle. Manchester and Birmingham are interested. Bids close on February 27.

Rosyth dockyard saved as pressure grows to halt army cuts

Continued from page 1
make up its mind about the Trident contract. They said the defence ministry had had all the figures for 12 months and there was no need for further examination. Michael Leese, managing director and chief executive of Devonport Management, said he was seriously disappointed by the statement.

Mr Rifkind's announcement failed to satisfy MPs and trade union officials, who complained at further delays in reaching a decision on the Trident contract and predicted job losses at both yards. A further 14,000 indirect jobs are at stake in the Rosyth area, Devonport, which

employs about 5,200, says another 15,000 jobs are at stake in the region. George Mandaruk, Rosyth dockyard union secretary, said: "This could be a glimmer of hope for us. There are going to be two dockyards, but if they put the submarine work to Devonport, that just leaves us with some surface work."

David Clark, shadow defence secretary, described Mr Rifkind's statement as "the latest mix-up" which only added to the uncertainty over other shipyards, such as Tyne-side's Swan Hunter and Clydeside's Yardway.

At the same time as doubts were expressed over the dockyard an-

nouncement, the government faced serious opposition to its programme of defence cuts from the powerful Commons defence committee which demanded a reprieve of seven more infantry battalions, due to go under the *Options for Change* review.

The MPs on the all-party committee said the announcement last week that two battalions would be reinstated with the cancellation of the planned merger of the Cheshire and Staffordshire regiments and The Royal Scots and The King's Own Scottish Borderers did not go far enough.

In a highly critical report which attacked the premise upon which the

Options exercise was based, the MPs called for a halt to all the remaining planned regimental amalgamations. So far, seven of 55 infantry battalions have gone in the first phase of mergers up to the end of this month.

The MPs want the total number of infantry battalions to stay at 47. That would be seven more than planned under the government's figure for the army, which was revised from 38 to 40 after the statement last week by Mr Rifkind.

At a press conference, Sir Nicholas Bonsor, chairman of the committee, said it would be cheaper for the Treasury to pay for the extra infantry battalions than to give large redun-

dancy payments to soldiers and unemployment benefit to those who could not find civilian jobs.

He said the cost of saving the infantry battalions had to be set against the overall cost of redundancies which would be £1.29 billion up to 1995.

Sir Nicholas added that he did not want to raise the hopes of regiments awaiting amalgamation, but he promised that his "dogged" committee would "fight every inch of ground" to persuade the government to reverse the army cuts.

Army cuts, page 4

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Many faces of the Bard stir much ado in the art world

BY ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

THE forthcoming sale of a portrait miniature claimed to depict William Shakespeare is reviving the debate among art historians about what the Bard really looked like.

A *Man Clasp of a Hand from a Cloud*, by Nicholas Hilliard, painted in 1588, was owned by the late Leslie Hotson, who suggested that Shakespeare is shown as Mercury clasping the hand of Apollo and read symbolic references to the gods in the clothes and landscape. Historians are sceptical. Sir Roy Strong, who has written several publications on Elizabethan portraiture, including one on Hilliard, believes that the subject is Lord Thomas Howard, knighted at sea for bravery against the Spanish Armada. The painting was originally believed to depict the second Earl of Essex.

There were many 16th-century paintings of "balding men who look vaguely like Shakespeare", Sir Roy said. There had been numerous "discoveries" since the end of the 18th century, but "you often find that they have been doctored to look like him. I always think that they make him look like a retired car salesman, although he was quite a dish."

His case for Lord Thomas Howard is strengthened by the fact that a miniature of Hilliard's standing would be unlikely to have painted Shakespeare in 1588, only two years after the poet left Stratford upon Avon with a reputation as a poacher rather than a playwright.

John Cooper, of the National Portrait Gallery, said that the art world was always cautious about pictures claiming to be of Shakespeare. "We can only be sure of two representations, both of which are commented upon in the First Folio by men who would have known Shakespeare personally. A lot of ink has been spent on it and it is a fascinating subject."

Historians approach claims to authenticity like detectives. Many of the unproven portraits are derivations of a picture known as the Chandos Shakespeare. In the National Portrait Gallery. This itself has never been fully accepted as genuine, but remains the only oil on canvas with more than superficial claims; the two accepted versions are an engraving and a bust.

Many of the claimed portraits agree on the basic traits. They show a man with a bald crown, long curling hair, moustache, pointed beard and dark, often hooded eyes.

The Hilliard miniature is expected to fetch up to £60,000 when sold on March 3 at Christie's.



Shall I compare thee: Shakespeare's funerary bust, left, and the First Folio engraving, right, are accepted as likenesses but the Chandos portrait, centre, is still in doubt



Writer or fighter: the Hilliard miniature, identified here as the Earl of Essex

Fusilier killed by IRA booby trap

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE army in Northern Ireland suffered its worst casualties in a single incident in over a year when one soldier was killed and four were wounded by an elaborate IRA booby trap early yesterday.

Three soldiers were in a serious condition in hospital in Belfast and the fourth was being kept in for observation. Two others were treated for shock and discharged.

The attack took place on the western outskirts of Armagh at about 1.45am as a foot patrol of seven members of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, and an RUC member were moving along a road into the town. An initial explosion injured at least one soldier. That was followed by two simultaneous explosions designed to injure or kill soldiers going to the aid of the first casualty.

The army said the dead soldier was Lance Corporal Michael Joseph Beswick, 21, a single man from Heywood, Greater Manchester.

Police said the three 20-kilogram devices were detonated by command wire. The IRA has used secondary devices before, the most notorious being the Warrenpoint bombing in August 1979 that killed six paratroopers initially and a further twelve in the secondary explosion.

An army spokesman said patrolling techniques were designed to minimise the vulnerability of large numbers of men. Soldiers were trained to redeploy safely before approaching an injured colleague but, the spokesman said, the natural inclination was to respond quickly.

This is the second serious incident the fusiliers have been involved in during their two-year tour. Last May one soldier was killed and two injured by a bomb detonated next to a checkpoint outside Newry, co. Down.

British Council calls in police to trace vanished £300,000

BY CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT AND ANGELA MACKAY

SENIOR officials at the British Council, which promotes the nation's cultural interests abroad, have called in police to help track down hundreds of thousands of pounds allegedly missing from their accounts. It is believed that around £300,000 has disappeared and that cheques legally drawn on their account have been channelled into false accounts.

Detectives from Charing Cross police station are interviewing British Council staff at their London headquarters in an effort to trace the missing cash. Some of the major clearing banks, including Midland and Barclays, have been alerted to be on the lookout for a number of five-figure cheques which have been passed through a series of fictitious accounts.

The British Council has an annual budget of £408 million and employs 6,000 people around the world. It has been described by the National Audit Office as a principal arm of British diplomacy in furthering cultural interests and trade.

The discovery of the missing cash has embarrassed the council. Only a handful of senior executives are aware of

the scale of the alleged fraud. They reported their findings to the police last week and set up an internal enquiry.

A police spokesman last night confirmed that the allegations of fraud, but would not comment further. The British Council refused to comment on any aspect of the investigation.

Apart from maintaining its considerable staff and offices world-wide, the British Council also disburses grants to various groups and individuals to fund long-term and one-off projects. It is believed the missing cash involved these grants. Its accounts are monitored by the Public Accounts Committee and the National Audit Office, which maintains a permanent presence at the council's head office.

Some 30 per cent of its core grant comes from the government and the rest from the Overseas Development Administration, other bodies and revenue earned. There has been a long debate in Whitehall about whether the British Council should become an executive agency, but this has always been resisted by the council. It believes its current status gives it an indepen-

dence essential to the nature of its work which has parallels with the role of the *Alliance Francaise*.

The council is undergoing a so-called Priday review - an inquiry under the auspices of Treasury that is implemented every five years. The review will concentrate on its recent reorganisation under the guidance of John Hanson, its new director general. The overhaul reportedly left the British Council a leaner and fitter organisation, and involved the relocation of 650 staff from London to Manchester. A more commercial approach was adopted, with bidding for international contracts such as training staff for the World Bank and European Community.

The council operates in 101 countries is best known for its libraries, language training and sponsorship. The government would like to see some of its functions extended into the emerging but chaotic new eastern Europe. Many Tories also want to privatise the English language teaching operation, which is undertaken in 60 centres around the world, but this is another area strongly defended by the council.

Gagged landlord 'left to die'

A WOMAN who claimed she was sexually harassed by her landlord helped her boyfriend to kill him in a locked room, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Michelle Pavett, 25, and Paul Barton, 25, had been renting a room in Ken Dinn's house, Orlando Pownall, for the prosecution, said Mr Barton, 61, was believed to have died of a heart attack as a result of the attack.

Miss Pavett, unemployed, and Mr Barton, a plumber, deny two charges of false imprisonment and one of manslaughter. Miss Pavett also denies obstructing a coroner. John Flood, 39, a bricklayer, also a tenant in the house, denies a charge of false imprisonment.

The couple first gagged their landlord, said by Mr Flood to have a habit of drunkenness and aggression, a week after they moved in. On June 11 they returned home to find the door of the house in Willesden, north London, double-locked.

Miss Pavett later told police that Mr Dinn was naked when he opened the door and tried to kiss her. When her boyfriend argued with him he threatened them with a knife. They bound and gagged him with a pair of underpants and returned to their room, laughing. The following morning they found him dead.

The trial continues today.

Captains given advice on how to escape from pirates

BY TIM JONES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE first government guidelines on sea piracy advise captains to use powerful water hoses to try to repel boarders, but the shipping minister Lord Caidness refused to sanction the carrying of firearms on ships.

There were more than 80 pirate attacks on ships in the first eight months of last year, mainly around southeast Asia, and some raiders used machineguns and bombs to stop vessels.

In December, Captain John Bashforth, 45, of Hathersage,

Derbyshire, was murdered by a shot in the head after refusing to hand over money when his ship, *Baltimar Zephyr*, was boarded by five men off Indonesia.

Lord Caidness said: "Despite its somewhat romantic image, piracy is and always has been a vile trade. Lives are lost or put at risk, property is stolen and coastlines are threatened by pollution damage following assaults by pirates and armed robbers." But he added: "Arms on board ship may encourage attackers

to carry firearms, thereby escalating an already dangerous situation."

The guidelines, the first produced by any government in the world, say every ship operating in waters where attacks are likely to occur should have an anti-attack plan. They add: "There will be many circumstances when compliance with the attackers' demands will be the only safe alternative and when resistance or obstruction of any kind could be both futile and dangerous."

Heritage may drop druid ban

BY JOHN YOUNG

THE druids may be allowed to resume their rituals at Stonehenge this year after a four-year absence, but will not be given access during the summer solstice.

The sect was banned from the site after a violent confrontation between police and "new age" travellers in 1988. With the approval of English Heritage, which manages the site, and the National Trust, which owns surrounding land, the police have enforced an exclusion zone up to and including the solstice.

The ban reinforces a policy of denying access to the stones themselves because of the potential damage. The druids say they have no connection with the travellers and their wish to pursue pagan ceremonies has been compromised by association with past demonstrations.

English Heritage said it was conscious that Stonehenge was a place of special significance for some people. Talks had been held with a number of groups but no final decision had been reached and it was unlikely that access would be granted during the solstice.

English Heritage and the National Trust have put forward a £10 million scheme for a new visitor centre and for changes in access arrangements.



Poppet's art: Carly Johnson in Manchester Art Gallery with *Rhythm of the Trees*

Girl of 4 steals the show as her 'fun' painting is sold for £295

BY RONALD FAUX

A "BLOB" painting by a four-year-old girl, submitted for fun to the Manchester Academy of Fine Arts annual show, sold within minutes yesterday for £295.

Carly Johnson's *Rhythm of the Trees* was submitted among some of her grandfather's paintings. The selectors, unaware that it was by a child, chose it from among 1,100 others for the quality of colour balance, composition and technical skill.

The society was unabashed yesterday and said there were no plans to insist that artists reveal their age in future. Vera Lowe, the secretary, said: "We

are not going to change the rules. Children's work is absolutely wonderful until, of course, someone teaches them how to do it." She said she suspected a little subterfuge because the signature was that of an adult.

There was a flood of calls from interested buyers to Manchester City Art Gallery yesterday after the artist's identity was revealed. Barnaby Blacker, a collector who runs a gallery and studio in co. Cork, snapped up the painting for the asking price. "The picture is sheer, innocent poetry," he said. It would not be available for resale and would hang on

the wall of his coffee shop. Carly, of Chorley, Lancashire, produced the picture in the studio of her grandfather, David Sandrill, with just a few flourishes of a paintbrush and he pinned it on the wall.

When he submitted some of his own work for the exhibition, Carly's painting was shipped in as well. Helen Johnson, her mother, said: "It was just for the heck of it. We could not believe it when we heard the judges had decided to show it."

Rhythm of the Trees was one of 367 works selected for the show. Another was one by Mr Sandrill.

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Patten defies teachers with insistence on summer English tests

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

Parents and independent schools have joined the campaign for a rethink on early English tests for 14-year-olds

ENGLISH tests for 14-year-olds will go ahead this summer to prevent up to one in ten teenagers leaving school almost illiterate, the education secretary John Patten said yesterday in the face of growing opposition from teachers and parents.

Leaders of the six main teaching unions demanded urgent talks with Mr Patten. Five are likely to ballot members on a boycott of the tests and one is threatening to disrupt all national curriculum assessments for children at seven, 11 and 14.

The unions reiterated their opposition to the English tests at a meeting in London. Heads of grant-maintained schools have also appealed to Mr Patten to make this summer's tests a pilot scheme, and most independent schools are expected to exercise their right not to take part in them.

Mr Patten is determined not to relent and is preparing to publish the results even if there is a substantial boycott. He said: "About 520,000 schoolchildren will be taking the English tests this summer, and we know from the appallingly high incidence of adult illiteracy, which seems to have developed since the 1960s, that perhaps one in ten stand a chance of leaving school still grappling with the English language, unless these tests have shown which children need help."

The unions, backed by the English teachers' own association, consider the tests unreliable because of their late preparation and a lack of consultation. Mr Patten and the School Examinations and

Assessment Council, which is responsible for the tests, said that the piloting has been adequate.

In a joint statement, the six general secretaries of the unions said they would make every effort to co-ordinate protest action if there was not a rethink. "We insist we are not opposed to testing," they said in a letter to Mr Patten. "We are anxious that pupils should not suffer from untimed and ill-prepared tests, the results of which will neither be a true reflection of their attainment nor provide parents with accurate and meaningful information. These are serious matters which demand a full and proper dialogue between you and the teacher organisations."

Only the Professional Association of Teachers, which opposes strikes, is refusing to



Patten: tests will help reduce adult illiteracy

consider a boycott of the English tests. The National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers has gone further, deciding to ballot members on a withdrawal from all national curriculum tests.

In a radio interview yesterday, Mr Patten said he could not believe that "sensible, professional" unions would conduct a boycott. But even some parents are joining the protest over the tests.

Parents, teachers and school governors in Harrow, north London, which last year topped the government's examination league table, will tomorrow deliver a protest to the prime minister in Downing Street. Seven out of ten parents of pupils due to sit the tests in Harrow this summer have lodged objections, while head teachers and school governors are considering supporting a boycott.

Ann Taylor, Labour's education spokeswoman, urged Mr Patten to meet teachers' representatives to discuss the tests, and argued that they were not essential to tackle illiteracy. "Mr Patten's intransigence impresses no one. He is obviously afraid to listen or consult. It is about time he put pupils' needs before his personal pride."

Mr Patten said: "I am absolutely appalled at the equivocal attitude of the Labour leadership over the boycott proposed by some trade unions. Just where do they stand?"

Tortuous road that led to all-out war in the classroom

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION REPORTER

THE critical issue dividing government and teachers is the progress of one of the most important of all: how to assess the progress of almost 600,000 pupils against the new national curriculum. The results will be published in school league tables for England and Wales in the autumn.

Few dissenting voices have been raised against the tests in mathematics, science and technology. Instead, opposition has focused on English, with even teaching union leaders surprised at its vehemence: the English curriculum has been subject to changes when the tests themselves have not been tried out in a full-scale national pilot.

All six unions want Mr Patten to make the tests a voluntary dry run this summer, with individuals' results reported to parents but not included in league tables. They complain that the tests are too narrow, poorly prepared and that the results will be invalid. Mr Patten says he will not back down.

As a result, it is impossible to guess how many pupils will sit the first 90-minute paper at 1pm on Monday, June 7. Those that do will face a three-part test of their reading, comprehension, grammar and vocabulary.

Part one will contain one or two passages, with questions requiring short phrases, single word and multiple choice answers. Part two will ask pupils

to supply missing words to assess their word power and grasp of grammar. The last section will require pupils to write a letter, with marks for spelling, handwriting and presentation.

Two days later, pupils will face the second paper on works they have studied in class. The 90-minute test will be split between questions on a Shakespeare play — *Julius Caesar*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* or *Romeo and Juliet* — and an anthology of about 30 poems and prose extracts from classic literature, ranging from Chaucer to Doris Lessing.

In the afternoon, pupils will sit their last, hour-long, English test, writing a creative essay.

The route to producing these tests has been long, tortuous and fraught with controversy. It began in autumn 1989 when two agencies, the Consortium for Assessment and Testing in Schools and East London and Macmillan Assessment Group, were asked by the School Examinations and Assessment Council (Seac), the government's advisers, to draw up sample papers.

Almost two years later, after piloting a range of tests on more than 30,000 pupils, Kenneth Clarke, then education secretary, dismissed their work as "elaborate nonsense". It relied too much on children doing project work, instead of the traditional pencil and paper tests he wanted.

Philip Halsay, the Seac chairman, staunchly defended

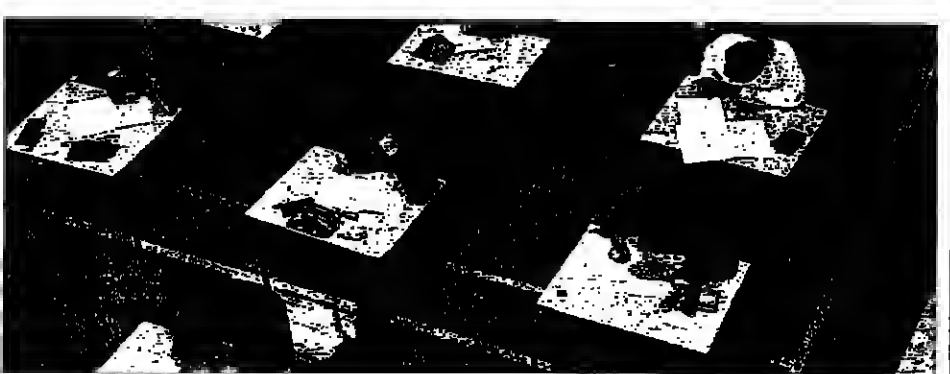
the style of these tests. But after what one insider called a "bottle royal" with Mr Clarke, he resigned suddenly and was replaced by Lord Griffiths of Forest, a former head of the Downing Street policy unit.

Lord Griffiths called in the Northern Examinations Board to work on the English tests in September 1991. It introduced the idea of using an anthology, including a Shakespeare extract, in tests tried out by 12,000 pupils in 102 schools last summer.

A series of disagreements with Seac, only some about the style of tests, led to yet another change of horse in September, to the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate. It produced a more traditional anthology — out went Ted Hughes, Spike Milligan and a traditional African poem — and has so far tried out its tests on less than 2,800 pupils in 28 schools.

Mr Patten, in an interview on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme yesterday, argued that the June tests were the result of four years' work, fine-tuned after pilot tests with 45,000 children.

Away from the microphones, Mr Patten acknowledges the scale of opposition to the English tests. It has, he believes, spread from the teacher militants to those frustrated at the pace of change being imposed by government, and beyond, to those teachers who usually stay quietly on the sidelines.



Testing time: pupils at the centre of the dispute over how best to assess progress

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Teenage trend-setters give 'overpriced' trainers the boot

By NICHOLAS WATT

LIGHTWEIGHT training shoes, which once graced the clubs and playgrounds of Britain with their floppy nylon tongues, are out. Sales have halved in the last few years as youngsters spurn them in favour of chunky walking boots.

Only a few years ago, no self-respecting teenager would dare turn up at a rave without a pair of trainers. Boys and girls alike danced, flirted and smoked the

night away in identical uniforms of baggy jeans and T-shirts. So alluring were the shoes produced by designer names such as Nike, Adidas and Reebok that American teenagers nudged each other to slip their feet into a pair.

Reebok, the sports shoe manufacturers which spotted the change in fashion, yesterday launched its new chunky shoe designed to recapture the teenage market. The Boks, soon to be followed by a children's version called Weebok, will sell for

between £35 and £70. Debra Dixon, of Reebok, said that the company had exhausted the trainer shoe market. "Fashion has turned its back on athletic trainers," she said. "A couple of years ago, cool dudes were wearing trendy brands of trainers. Now they're wearing deck shoes or rugged work boots."

Iain R Webb, *The Times* fashion editor, said: "The look of today's trainers is constantly being updated: new airsole, pump action or

fashion and remain 'hip', you can only wear a certain style for a month or so. Very few young people can afford this kind of consumption — the new 'grunge' look is the antithesis of this flashy materialistic way of dressing. Now young people choose to wear utility footwear: Dr Marten boots, clogs or desert boots."

A recent survey of more than 100 teenagers found that 90 per cent thought trainers were too expensive. More than three quarters of

those for *Check It Out*, the Consumers' Association's youth magazine, said they were not prepared to pay more than £50 for a pair. Blind tests of five popular brands of trainer for comfort and cushioning showed that the most expensive models were best.

Suggestions that the decline in training shoes means that Britain has now become a lazier nation were firmly rebutted by the athlete Steve Ovett. "Running and jogging have not gone out of fashion."

Desk-top army cuts 'fall short of reality'

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE powerful Commons defence committee yesterday urged the government to cancel all mergers and disbandments of infantry regiments because of increasing commitments.

The MPs on the all-party committee welcomed the decision last week by Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, to stop the amalgamation of the Cheshire and Staffordshire regiments, and The Royal Scots and The King's Own Scottish Borderers. But they said the extra two battalions created were not enough to eliminate the "overstretch" that was suffered by soldiers and their families.

In a highly critical report, the MPs demanded the reinstatement of seven more infantry battalions to give a total of 47, compared with the government's planned reduction to 40.

The MPs said: "Everything in the past three years leads us to the bleak conclusion that the proposed rundown goes too far and that even minor contingencies are imposing an unacceptable strain on the army."

The report said that the proposed cuts were Treasury-led and "in no way reflect the defence needs of the United Kingdom."

Emergency tours for the infantry have risen substantially since *Options for Change* was finalised, with two extra battalions on duty in Northern Ireland and 2,400 troops serving in Bosnia.

If the government failed to reinstate the regiments earmarked for amalgamation, Britain would be unable to play a proper part in future United Nations peacekeeping operations, the report said.

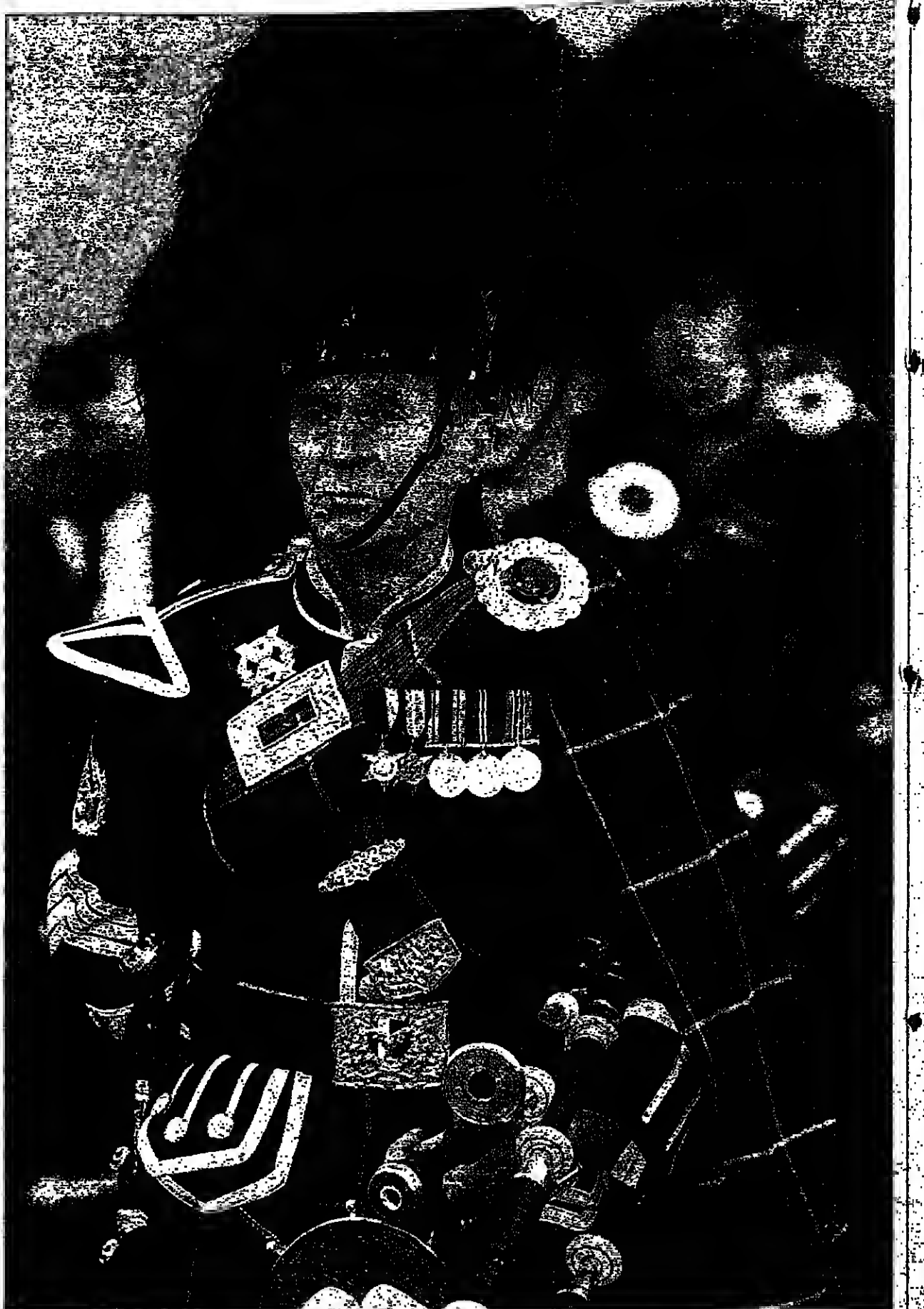
The "most desk-top calculations" that had been made by the government in matching manpower needs with current and future commitments did not reflect the real world, the MPs said.

The lesson of Northern Ireland provided the most telling evidence that the government had got its figures wrong and that the army was being overstretched, the report said. The assessment in *Options for Change* was that units should have a gap of 24 months between emergency tours. Yet, as one example, the 2nd Battalion Light Infantry had been on four emergency tours of Northern Ireland since January 1990.

The MPs were also upset over what the army calls "nights out of bed": the number of nights soldiers are away from home. For one unit there were 250 nights out of bed in 1990, 150 in 1991 and 190 in 1992.

The report said: "It is inconceivable that ministers would have approved proposals for reorganisation leading to the current degree of overstretch if it had been fully foreseen. We prefer to believe that it was a lack of foresight rather than indifference to overstretch that has produced the current problems."

The MPs also expressed concern that with the increased use of units from the Royal Armoured Corps and



Battling on: the reprieve of the Royal Scots regiment last week does not go far enough, MPs said yesterday

Royal Artillery in an infantry role in Northern Ireland, some regiments had difficulty finding the time to fire their guns. For example, 45 Field Regiment Royal Artillery carried out no regimental training between July 1990 and September 1992. There had also been "disproportionately heavy reductions" in the Royal Armoured Corps.

The MPs were worried, too, that the defence ministry was planning big cuts in equipment for the other two services to help pay for the extra battalions.

Winston Churchill, Tory MP for Daventry, said: "We were given the very clear assurance that despite the 25 per cent cut in army manpower, equipment would be significantly better."

"Now we see that promise is to be dishonoured. It is in stark contrast to the utter failure of ministers to cut civilian manpower at the Ministry of Defence by anything like the same amount."

□ *Britain's Army for the 90s: Commitments and Resources*, Commons Defence Committee (Stationery Office; £14.70)

IN THE first year of implementing *Options for Change*, The Royal Hampshire Regiment and The Queen's Regiment have merged and are now called The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

A number of large regiments have also lost units. The Royal Green Jackets, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and The Royal Anglian Regiment have been reduced from three battalions to two. The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles have also amalgamated.

The Light Infantry will lose one of its three battalions by February 27. Infantry regiments still to be merged are The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment with The Gloucestershire Regiment and the Queen's Own Highlanders with The Gordon Highlanders.

A freeze on mergers would affect the Scots Guards, Coldstream Guards, Grenadier Guards and the other Gurkha regiments, all of which are to lose battalions.

Scots campaigners welcome reprieve

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to save Scottish regiments from amalgamation are calling for a full review in the light of the defence select committee's report.

Li General Sir John MacMillan, former GOC Scotland and chairman of the Keep Our Scottish Battalions campaign, welcomed the report but said Malcolm Rifkind's reprieve of the The King's Own Scottish Borderers and The Royal Scots last week was merely "a sticking plaster over the more serious problems of overstretch in the British infantry."

Sir John said he wanted to see a full review which would show that the army must either be given fewer tasks or more infantry units. "The Ministry of Defence should remember that Scotland is still able to provide fully-manned battalions when other parts of the country cannot," he said.

Charles Laidlaw, organiser of the Keep Our Scottish Battalions Campaign, said he was hopeful in the light of the select committee's recommendations that the merger of The Gordon Highlanders with the Queen's Own Highlanders would not go ahead. "It's a complete vindication of what we've been saying for the last 20 months. The army is being asked to do too much with too few resources."

The newly-saved Borders regiments are joining the Highland regiments in their fight. Michael Robson, chairman of the Save The Gordon Highlanders Committee, said: "Our campaign will continue and I am sure that the Highland regiments will be saved. There will be no slackening of the pressure on the government."

Beck phone call leads to enquiry

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Home Office has started an enquiry into whether prisoners could abuse new rules allowing them to make telephone calls. The enquiry comes after Frank Beck, convicted in the Leicester child sex abuse case, was heard on television this week commenting on reports about his case.

Beck was recorded talking to his solicitor from Gartree prison. In the past year, telephone cards have been issued to an increasing number of prisoners under recommendations by Lord Justice Woolf to enable them to remain in contact with their families. The enquiry will look at ways of preventing abuse of this.

The investigation will look at the television interview with the mass murderer Dennis Nilsen, over which the Home Office sought a ban and has started a breach of copyright case. The Home Office said both cases raised issues of how much prisoners should be able to talk to the media and have outside contact.

Lawyers criticise new maintenance rules but woman put in charge says they are fair

Big rise predicted in child support disputes

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

JUDGES and lawyers are predicting a big rise in disputes between divorced parents as a result of government proposals to change the system for assessing how much fathers pay to support their children.

The Child Support Act, which comes into force in April, removes assessing maintenance from the courts and places it with the new Child Support Agency, which will have wide-ranging powers of enforcement.

The act is aimed at ensuring that absent fathers contribute towards their children's upbringing and also at reducing the legal aid bill. Legal aid for child maintenance cases will be scrapped. But some legal experts predict that the new system, under which maintenance payments will be worked out according to a tariff, will cause rifts in second families and more disputes over access.

Mrs Justice Booth, a judge in the High Court family division, said the act may undermine the "clean break" principle of divorce settlements. Wives would be able to seek a full maintenance order

even when they had agreed nominal child maintenance in return for a larger share of the capital in the divorce settlement so that they could make a "clean break".

Claire Meltzer, a family law solicitor with Collyer-Bristow, said the tariff system was flawed because it lacked the discretion that judges could currently apply according to individual circumstances. Under the new scheme fathers, and occasionally mothers, will have their income assessed according to a standardised table.

The agency is expected to order child maintenance of an average £30 to £40 a week. But the tariff system takes no account of the needs of any future children that the father supports. "Second families could be wrecked by the financial strain of continuing high maintenance payments," Mrs Meltzer said.

Fathers may be able to exploit allowances for items such as mortgages and pensions. Valerie Godson, also of Collyer-Bristow, said: "This is an open invitation for fathers to invest heavily in a pension or a mortgage to reduce their maintenance payments. The

situation is wide open to abuse."

Richard Sax, of solicitor Rubinstein Callingham Polden & Gale, warned of problems because maintenance would be adjusted according to the amount of contact a father had. "If a child spends 104 nights a year, or two nights a week, with the absent parent, maintenance will be reduced. So there could now be disputes over contact where previously the mother would have been very happy to allow frequent contact, but now realises this could lead to a reduction of at least two-sevenths in maintenance payable."

The Campaign Against the Child Support Act, a lobby group, has criticised the legislation for forcing single mothers on income support to claim maintenance from absent fathers, even if they wanted no contact with them. Mothers who refuse to disclose a father's whereabouts can be fined £8.80 a week. They will have a legal right to refuse maintenance if they fear violence, but the campaign said women would face pressure and harassment from officials to comply.



In search of parents: Ros Hepplewhite heads the campaign against those evading child maintenance

Electronic pebbles keep watch on erosion

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

AN ELECTRONIC pebble has been developed by British researchers to aid local authorities planning coastal defence strategies.

Inside the device are an electronic circuit and a battery that produce a series of coded signals which can be tracked using another device resembling a metal detector.

A variety of unpredictable forces such as storms, waves and tides conspire to erode vulnerable stretches of coastline by washing shingles, gravel and sands away or sweeping them down the coast. Damage is acute in the south of England, where erosion is threatening valuable scenic and agricultural land as well as homes.

Some local authorities are spending millions of pounds to replenish vulnerable sites using materials such as pebbles but with little idea if such schemes are effective.

The electronic pebbles, which resemble natural pebbles in shape, weight and size, are buffeted and moved like the real ones. By tracking them, planners can study how the various natural forces interplay on a stretch of coastline. More importantly, their fate can give indications as to whether replenishment of a particular stretch is worth the money.

The devices are the brainchild of Professor Michael Collins and Professor Jim Smith of Southampton University. Each pebble costs about £30 but could be much cheaper if mass-produced. Tests were recently completed in collaboration with Canterbury City Council on a beach near Whitstable, Kent.

Professor Collins said the devices could play a key role in deciding gravel extraction licences. Companies dredge up to half of construction gravel from offshore.

Licences are granted or refused depending on whether the seabed is mobile or stationary. Material in mobile beds can be washed back onshore, feeding the coast and helping to stem erosion.

Professor Collins said it was vital that these were left unlinked.

Daughter of an absent father leads fight to make parents pay

By MICHAEL DYNES
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

From the seventh floor of a central London office block, Ros Hepplewhite, the head of the new Child Support Agency, is about to take centre stage in measures against the absent parent.

On April 5, the 40-year-old former director of Mind, the mental health charity, launches the government's long-awaited assault on the evasion of child maintenance.

During the four years it will take the new agency to become fully operational, absent parents will discover that paying child maintenance is one of life's certainties, alongside death and taxes.

From April, single parents receiving income support, family credit or disability working allow-

ance will be asked to provide information about the absent parent so they can be traced by the agency and notified of their legal obligation to provide maintenance.

With access to Inland Revenue and Department of Social Security records, Ms Hepplewhite says: "The absent parent will be traced. Maintenance will be assessed, collected and enforced" without contact between the parents. "It will be a much more comprehensive system than is currently provided by the courts."

In the eyes of many, the measures are long overdue. The number of lone parents receiving income support almost trebled from 322,000 in 1979 to 895,000 in 1991.

The number of lone parents receiving maintenance fell from 50 to 23 per cent during the same period, forcing the state to assume

the cost of supporting the two million children in such circumstances at a cost of £4.3 billion a year.

The Child Support Agency, the first of the so-called Next Steps semi-autonomous agencies to be created from scratch, is a recognition that the traditional family structure is breaking down and marks a break with the permissive attitudes over parental obligations towards their children.

The dramatic increase in "lone parenthood" and "serial relationships" has seen the cost of separation "falling on the state", Ms Hepplewhite said. Parents have, however, a clear obligation to support their children. Consequently the agency, which will force parents to shoulder those responsibilities, "represents a clear break with the drift of the past".

Ms Hepplewhite, who is married with two children, could be said to be admirably qualified for her £48,000-a-year post. As a child she was abandoned by her father and brought up by her mother, a teacher, without any financial support from her husband. She says, however, that she harbours no resentment towards errant fathers.

From April, absent fathers could be forgiven for thinking otherwise. The new agency will operate from six regional centres at Belfast, Falkirk, Birkenhead, Dudley, Plymouth and Hastings, each employing 500 staff, with a further 2,000 staff at the 450 social security offices around the country.

The agency will cost £150 million to set up and £100 million a year to run. It has been given a long-term target of reducing the annual bill for child support by some £600 million.

All new child maintenance cases will be dealt with by the agency from April and all existing cases will be progressively transferred to it over the next four years.

Ms Hepplewhite says that many absent parents, most of whom are fathers, will be "shocked" by the size of the new settlements. "Average court awards have lost value," she said. Awards of £25 a week per child were "unrealistic". In future, average awards were likely to be nearer £50 a week. Each award would be based on a strict formula which would take account of the financial circumstances of the parents.

"We are not a punitive organisation," Ms Hepplewhite said, "and we are not concerned whether the relationship lasted 20 minutes or 20 years. But maintenance bills will be almost double."

Mothers who refuse to co-operate with the agency by naming the father could face benefit reductions, unless they can prove that they would "suffer harm or undue distress". Similarly, fathers who refuse to make or keep up payments could have the money deducted from their income and could face a prison sentence.

Ms Hepplewhite does not expect the agency to be accepted with open arms overnight. "We expect some hostility and resistance. Acceptance will require a big cultural change."

But parents will eventually see that "it's inevitable, it's fair, and it's happening to everybody else as well". While there is "an element of choice about becoming a parent," maintenance will become just like paying taxes.

"No one wants to pay up, but there will be no choice," Ms Hepplewhite said.

Mothers who refuse to co-operate with the agency by naming the father could face benefit reductions, unless they can prove that they would "suffer harm or undue distress". Similarly, fathers who refuse to make or keep up payments could have the money deducted from their income and could face a prison sentence.

Cambridge half-way to £250m

By JOHN SHAW

Cambridge University announced yesterday that it had passed the half-way point in its campaign to raise £250 million in cash for new research projects.

The campaign, launched in 1989, aims to reach its target within ten years. Support is being given to six main areas: biochemistry, clinical medicine, engineering, law, management studies and the university library.

Former students have contributed large sums towards £125 million in cash and the university has raised a further £171 million in research grants and contracts. Sir David Williams, the vice-chancellor, said: "In just over three years of a ten-year campaign, we have achieved extremely encouraging results. I hope this will continue."

Heir banned

Lord Apsley, 31, the heir to Earl Bathurst's Cirencester Park estate in Gloucestershire, was banned from driving for three years and put on probation for 18 months by Cirencester magistrates. He had admitted driving while almost four times over the legal alcohol limit.

Station attack

Up to ten people were taken to hospital with eye injuries after being attacked with a temporarily blinding spray at Waterloo station, central London. A man was later detained at Kennington police station.

Van explodes

McCalla Moony, 3, burnt to death and her three brothers and grandmother were badly injured when the camper van in which they were travelling exploded near Barnstaple, Devon.

High note

The opera singer Luciano Pavarotti has accepted an invitation to become vice-president of the annual Llangollen International Eisteddfod.

British human rights activists face life in Indian prison

By KATE ALDERSON

TWO Britons face life imprisonment in India after being charged with sedition, rioting with deadly weapons and criminal conspiracy.

David Ward and Stephen Hillman, who were charged two weeks ago, were held for a year after entering Nagaland, a northeastern region of India which has been all but closed to foreigners since 1947. They deny all charges and say their only crime was to enter Nagaland without a special permit.

Politicians and human rights groups are calling for the speedy release of Mr Ward and Mr Hillman following John Major's recent state visit to India where he raised their case.

The prime minister had previously written to Mr Ward's family saying that he understood the concern sur-



rounding their imprisonment. Simon Hughes, MP for Southwark and Bermondsey, is calling on Mr Major to state what further action he plans.

Naga-Vigil, a UK-based human rights group which is campaigning for the men's release, claims that more than 100,000 Nagas have lost their lives in the struggle for independence. About 150,000 Indian security forces patrol

the area and, according to Amnesty International, allegations of rape, torture and murder by the troops are frequent.

The two men deny the Indian government's claim that they were in Nagaland to promote insurgency and that when they were arrested, in a convoy of Naga vehicles, they shot at security forces. They say they were recording human rights abuses for Naga-Vigil. Both claim the reason for detention was not originally made clear to them and that they were initially denied access to lawyers.

In a letter to Mr Major last week, Mr Hughes said the two Britons were imprisoned on January 30, 1992, under the National Security Act (1980) "after they had been coerced into signing confessions". Their case will be heard on March 3.

Prisoners Abroad is concerned at the length of their imprisonment and their treatment. It said: "An Indian official has confirmed that both Ward and Hillman were unarmed. They were beaten, held in leg irons, blindfolded and have both lost a great deal of weight. Doctors wishing to see them were denied access."

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "Whether they had taken any part in the Naga campaign seems most unlikely. We would like to see the men home as soon as possible."



Prisoners: Ward and Hillman deny sedition

SUCH was the foresight of the English class system that even the phrase "I want a classless society" was booby-trapped long ago, ready to embarrass those who sought to dismantle it. When John Major said: "I want a classless society," he managed the long "a" in "want", but fell foul of the "a" in "want", pronouncing it to rhyme with "hunt" rather than "font". By pronouncing it so oddly, he managed to unite all the classes in Britain, if only in glee.

Presumably, Mr Major thought that "want" was the classiest correct way to pronounce "want". Yet it is one of the few words pronounced the same from north to south and across the

The way it isn't

CHARGE-BROWN



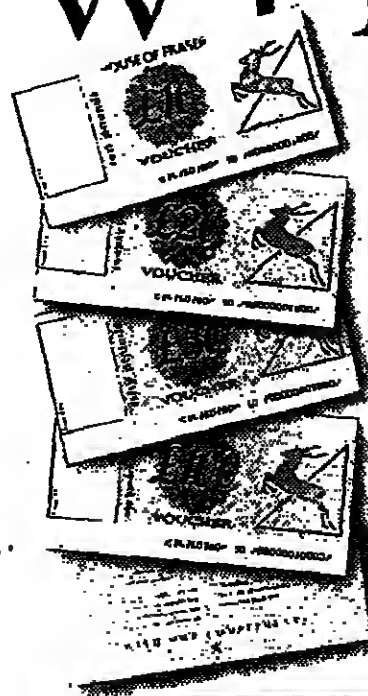
classes. When the new classless-speak becomes official, I wonder what the correct pronunciation of the word "off" will be? At the moment, both the upper and lower classes unite in pronouncing it "awf", while all the in-betweeners pronounce it to rhyme with "ough". To rule against "awf" would thus be an act of snobbery and

inverted snobbery at one and the same time.

The top and the bottom also unite in their use of the word "What?" instead of "Pardon?". Thus we have the odd situation whereby the lower-middle-to-middle-middle-classes are busily teaching their children to say "Pardon?" rather than "What?" while the middle-middle-to-upper classes are struggling just as hard to teach them to copy the lower and say "What?" rather than "Pardon?"

If ever I meet the prime minister, I plan to speak very softly, so that I can learn at first hand what his ruling is on the matter. On past form, he will reply "Whardon?" or "Phart?"

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Certain merchandise may not be available in all stores.

Private firms may run motorways

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PRIVATE firms may soon be responsible for running and upgrading Britain's motorways. Under proposals to be unveiled in John MacGregor's forthcoming green paper, the private sector could be asked to install electronic tolls, collect charges and use the money to design and build big improvements such as extra lanes.

The move, aimed at bringing forward the transport secretary's 20-year £23 billion programme for upgrading the motorway network, would amount to its effective privatisation.

The disclosure that Mr MacGregor envisages a pivotal role for the private sector in keeping traffic moving into the next century follows the revelation on Monday of plans to impose tolls on the existing motorway network.

The report led to a storm of protest from Opposition leaders and motoring organisations, but sources close to Mr MacGregor said yesterday that he was unperturbed by the criticism and that he viewed his proposals as delivering the Autumn Statement's drive for more private funding of projects traditionally seen as a public preserve.

Transport department officials said yesterday that Mr MacGregor would float the option of making private construction firms primarily responsible for motorway management. Tolls would be electronically collected and would not involve more booths of the kind that hold up traffic at the Dartford crossing on the M25.

"Tolls could possibly be operated by private companies, which would collect the money and maintain the road. All this is a possibility. It is part of getting the private sector involved in public projects. It all stems from the Autumn Statement."

Under the plan, to be detailed in a green paper in the spring, construction companies would be invited to compete for government contracts to manage the motorways. One factor in awarding tenders might be the quality and standards of proposed motorway service areas. Officials believe that motorists might be persuaded to pay tolls because of the attractions of a clean and comfortable stopping-off point.

The officials pointed out that a line-noticed part of a press statement issued by Mr MacGregor at the time of Norman Lamont's Autumn Statement hinted at a private sector takeover. "In the longer term, I hope to see greater involvement of the private sector in the financing, design, building and operation of national roads. The green paper will look at possible new approaches to this."

A key question to be resolved in the green paper is the extent to which the imposition of tolls might be linked to direct upgrading of motorways. Mr MacGregor has said that if a toll were imposed on, say, the M1, that would only be done if the money raised was used to improve this road. However, his officials concede that another option is to pool revenue from all motorways.



On the road: Robin Cook goes to The Netherlands in search of a solution to the Leyland DAF problems

Major resists pressure on Leyland DAF

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

JOHN Major refused to bow to pressure from MPs yesterday to offer help to thousands of Leyland DAF workers whose jobs are threatened.

Labour MPs reacted furiously when the prime minister insisted that the company's future was "a matter for the receivers", after he had been urged in the Commons to tell Michael Heseltine to enter talks with the receiver, management and the unions.

After the Dutch government proposed a £167 million rescue package to save DAF jobs in The Netherlands, Mr Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, was pressed to offer similar financial support to the truck and van company

in Britain. Robin Cook, the shadow trade and industry secretary, renewed his attack on Mr Heseltine, claiming that he had "washed his hands" of British industry's problems in failing to protect up to 5,500 British workers.

Mr Cook, who met Dutch ministers in The Hague on Monday, said he was "astonished" that there had been no ministerial approach to The Netherlands and described Britain's absence from eight weeks of talks a scandal.

Although Mr Cook accepted that job losses were likely, he repeated his call for the government to match the Dutch in offering long-term investment to the ailing com-

pany and demanded that Britain should be involved in future rescue talks. He believed that Britain should follow the Dutch lead in rescuing a key part of the national technological base.

Mr Cook said that his meeting with two ministers from the Dutch government "was encouraging because I saw what can be done by a government with a clear industrial strategy and a vigorous commitment to making it work".

Leyland DAF's 5,500 British workers received a letter from the joint administrative receivers yesterday warning them that "job losses in the UK are inevitable". However,

the lender said that the receivers believed there was a future for Leyland DAF, albeit at a reduced size.

That promise was not enough for Kenneth Palmer, Conservative leader of the South Ribblesdale Borough Council, where Leyland's original plant was built. He has written to Mr Heseltine, calling for an urgent meeting to discuss Leyland's survival. He has called a meeting today with representatives from neighbouring Labour-controlled Preston as well as the Lancashire County Council to work out ways of minimising the impact of any redundancies.

DAF job fears, page 19

Major is taxed on VAT

BY ROBERT MORGAN, POLITICAL STAFF

JOHN Major yesterday refused three times to say whether the government intended to extend the scope of VAT. It was too close to the Budget to answer, he said.

With a full-scale review of government spending under way and the Budget deficit likely to go close to £50 billion next year, ministers are increasingly being pressed to indicate where cuts are to be made or what taxes are to be raised. During question time the prime minister steadfastly refused to be drawn.

Margaret Beckett, Labour's deputy leader, asked: "Does the prime minister recall his pledge during the election campaign only ten months ago, 'We have no plans and no need to extend the scope of VAT'? Does he stand by those words?"

Mr Major replied: "Mrs Beckett knows we are near to the Budget and she must wait."

Mrs Beckett insisted: "The prime minister made just that promise to the British people when he needed their votes. Why won't he make it now?"

Again the prime minister said she had to wait.

Mrs Beckett, clearly irritated, said that during the election Mr Major and his colleagues promised no changes in VAT, no new taxes or charges and no cuts in public spending. She added, to cheers from Labour MPs: "Is it not clear from his refusal to answer a simple question that all his promises had a sell-by date of April 9?"

Downing Street said later that Mr Major would have refused to comment on any taxation matter because of the closeness of the Budget. No inferences should be drawn one way or the other.



Arms sales on course for record

British arms exporters are on course for a record-breaking year. Jonathan Aitken, the defence procurement minister, said at question time. Defence exports in 1992 were £4.5 billion — 20 per cent of the world market. In January this year British companies had already won orders in the Middle and Far East to a value approaching sales for the whole of last year, itself a record.

The order for Tornados aircraft negotiated by John Major with Saudi Arabia last month will provide work for 150 British subcontracting companies as well as for British Aerospace, the main contractor, Mr Aitken said.

Trams backed

Private legislation to give London its first trams for more than 40 years passed an important hurdle when a Lords committee considering representations by the promoters and petitioners of the Croydon tramlink bill came down firmly in favour of the £140 million development. The 18-mile network could mean the demolition of 25 properties and the loss of acres of local parkland.

Passport hope

The defence ministry is attempting to get as many British passports as possible for members of Hong Kong's Military Service Corps, fearful for their futures when China regains control of the colony in 1997. Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, said at question time. He accepted that, unlike police and prison officers, their posts would disappear.

War crimes

Some 93 cases are being investigated under the War Crimes Act. Earl Ferrers, Home Office minister, said in the Lords.

In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Housing and urban development bill, third reading. Social security benefit uprating order. Lords (2.30): Debates on transport for the disabled, defence and security, and services for mentally disordered offenders.

Amendment raises Euro-sceptic hopes

BY JONATHAN FRYNN

A SECOND Irish referendum on the Maastricht treaty is one of many possible side-effects if the British government is defeated on Labour's amendment to remove Britain's opt-out of the social chapter.

The amendment, proposed by the Labour front bench and supported by the Liberal Democrats and some Tory rebels, will not be voted on by MPs for several weeks but is already threatening to scupper the government's careful stewardship of the Maastricht bill through the Commons.

Legal opinion in Brussels and London on the implications of the amendment remains divided, largely because there is no precedent. At the very least, the amendment would delay final ratification of the treaty and could give



Robertson: political soundings in Europe

new life to the anti-Maastricht movement in Ireland and continental Europe.

Labour is convinced that its amendment would require only a brief, technical meeting of member states to approve Britain's social chapter "opt-

in" and incorporate the chapter into the main body of the treaty. It is currently included in a separate protocol attached to the treaty because of the deal negotiated by John Major at the Maastricht summit in December 1991.

George Robertson, Labour's European affairs spokesman, said the party had taken legal opinion and "fairly considerable political soundings" among Britain's European partners before tabling the amendment, and was convinced that it would not damage the treaty.

Although most lawyers and officials agree that Britain's EC partners would readily accept the change, opponents of Maastricht across Europe would leap at the new opportunity to block the agreement.

The legislatures of the 11 would almost certainly have to

re-ratify the treaty after such a significant amendment. This would cause most problems in Ireland and Denmark, where a referendum is required. Denmark is not due to hold its second referendum on the treaty until May. The Irish voted in favour in a plebiscite last June.

Ken Murphy, a partner in the EC and competition law department of the Dublin law firm A & L Goodbody, said Irish Euro-sceptics would be likely to apply to the Irish Supreme Court for a new referendum. The appeal would have only a slim chance of success but would add to the uncertainty and delay.

British Tory rebels are lining up to support the amendment in the belief that it would effectively wreck the treaty.

Leading article, page 13

What the MP saw

MPs who have just recovered from a viewing of a Red Hot Dutch video, will soon be subjected to another exhibition of hard pornography (Arthur Leathley writes).

More than 300 MPs and peers are planning to attend the exhibition of obscene material being held behind closed doors on February 24 and 25.

Ann Winterton, a leading Conservative anti-pornography campaigner, said that some of the tapes, books, magazines and satellite and computer-generated pornography on show was horrific. Mrs Winterton, the MP for Conington, believes that the exhibition will highlight the failure of the Obscene Publications Act in preventing such material being made available.

Tories avoid clash

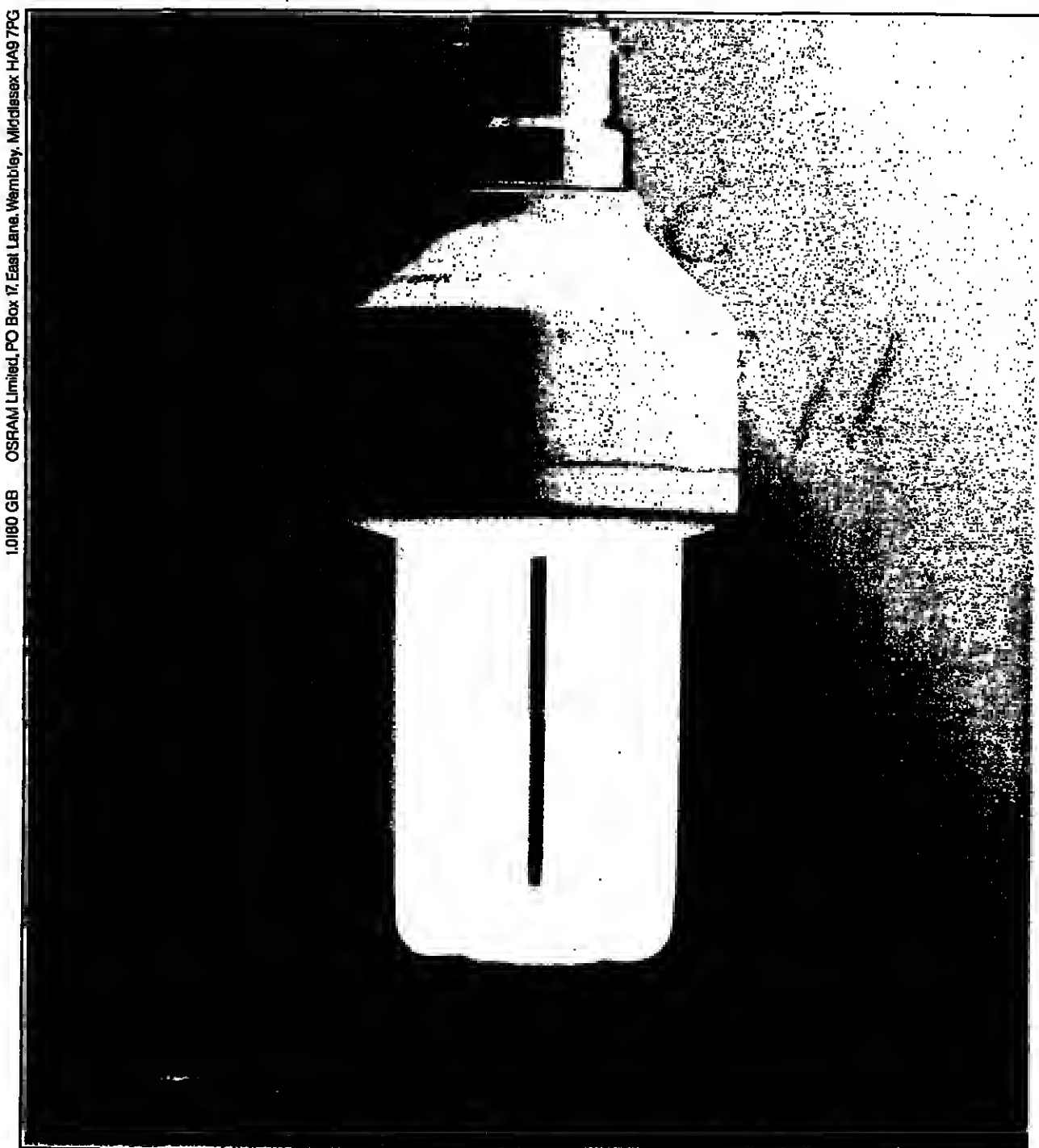
BY OUR POLITICAL STAFF

TORY backbenchers last night backed away from a clash with the government over its plans to allow flat owners to buy the freehold. Many Conservative MPs fear that extended enfranchisement, a government election manifesto pledge, would fragment large freehold estates.

The housing and urban development bill would allow an estimated 750,000 leaseholders to buy the freehold, if two-thirds of the leasehold tenants in a block of flats agreed. The bill, which began its report stage in the Commons yesterday, was condemned as a "sledgehammer to crack a nut" by Jerry Wiggin, one of several Tory MPs demanding greater protection for landlords. Mr Wiggin claimed the bill

would allow foreign tenants who rarely lived in Britain to buy properties at reduced prices. He called for an amendment which would allow only those who had lived in a flat for three years, or for three years out of the last ten, to buy the freehold.

Mr Wiggin withdrew his amendment after Michael Howard, the environment secretary, said that would make it almost impossible for long-term residents to buy their freeholds. People moved on average every nine years, so some leaseholders would be prevented from qualifying because there would always be tenants who failed the three-year test. It would be even more difficult in the worst-managed blocks, where tenants might move more often.



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Conservatives erode Russian president's power base and threaten to shorten his term of office

Yeltsin drops plans to hold April referendum

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday effectively abandoned his plan to hold a referendum on the future constitution on April 11 which was intended to consolidate his presidential powers. Instead, he suggested early presidential elections in 1995, to coincide with those for a new parliament.

According to the news agency Tass, President Yeltsin also called for a year-long moratorium on "all political fighting and other major political events", proposing instead to concentrate on economic reform. Mr Yeltsin said that the referendum was not an end in itself, but was only intended "to stop attempts at a creeping restoration of the past, and to establish once and for all the principle of the separation of powers, as well as to set in motion the creation of a new federation treaty".

This retreat is a heavy blow for the president and a corresponding victory for his arch-rival Ruslan Khasbulatov, the parliamentary speaker, and for the conservatives. The referendum was the only significant concession extracted by Mr Yeltsin from the last full meeting of the parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, in December, when he was forced to drop Yegor Gaidar, his reformist prime minister.

After initially agreeing to it, Mr Khasbulatov in recent weeks swung decisively against the referendum idea, and called for early presidential and parliamentary elections in spring 1994, ending Mr Yeltsin's presidential term by two years and that of the Congress by one. Mr Yeltsin said yesterday: "I am in favour of early elections, but they should take place on equal ground."

Mr Yeltsin's statement came immediately after he met yesterday leaders of Russia's autonomous republics, most of whom opposed the referendum. The most powerful of them, President Shamiyev of Tatarstan, said

before the meeting that the referendum was unnecessary and that instead president and parliament should learn to work together.

A key role in President Yeltsin's decision was played by Valeri Zorkin, chairman of the constitutional court. According to Mr Yeltsin's press spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, Mr Zorkin will now head a "conciliatory commission" with constitutional powers aimed at achieving a consensus between the different state bodies.

In Russia's almost paralysed political system, Mr Zorkin is now the only "neutral" figure who can broker compromises. He helped prevent an outright split between president and parliament in December and his intervention this week helped Mr Yeltsin to back down while keeping the remains of his prestige. Even before yesterday's decision, Mr Yeltsin had given little public support to the team he appointed to carry out the referendum, evidently calculating that he might be forced to abandon it.

There were threats that Tatarstan and other republics might boycott the vote, repeating against Mr Yeltsin the tactic used by several republics to block President Gorbachev's 1991 referendum on the maintenance of the Soviet Union. In the view of some observers, this could even have threatened the Russian Federation with disintegration and civil war.

□ **Qucha, Pakistan:** Kazakhstan has closed a Russian nuclear test site long blamed for causing radiation-induced illnesses in the region. People living round the site had been campaigning for its closure for the past ten years. The former Soviet Union used the republic to stockpile 2,000 nuclear warheads. There is also a huge space technology centre at Bikonov in central Kazakhstan which the Russians still use as a missile-launching site. (AFP)



Sparing partners: President Yeltsin's retreat on the referendum is a victory for Ruslan Khasbulatov, his arch-rival, and the conservative opposition

Hope for reform blighted as Moscow's strength wanes

BY ANATOL LIEVEN

PRESIDENT Yeltsin's defeat over the referendum issue suggests not merely that successful economic reform by democratic means in Russia may be impossible, but that effective central government itself is in danger.

Unless Mr Yeltsin can come up with some way of escaping from the tightening grip of the parliament, politics in Moscow are headed for years of paralysis and confusion, at a time when a bitter and suffering population is calling increasingly for a "strong hand". The referendum itself was a desperate throw by a president who saw his freedom of action drastically reduced by the Congress last December. He hoped with good reason that the people would vote for a strong presidency rather than a weak parliamentary government.

Such an appeal to the people over the heads of the politicians has served many presidents, most notably de Gaulle, but only when they have had the power to set the question. By last week it was

becoming clear that the parliament would insist on a list of questions so long and vague that most people would abstain.

Faced with this threat and the danger of boycotts by the autonomous republics, many of Mr Yeltsin's reformist supporters themselves opposed the referendum idea and proposed instead a constituent assembly elected only to draw up a new constitution: but this, too, is bound to be vetoed by the parliament.

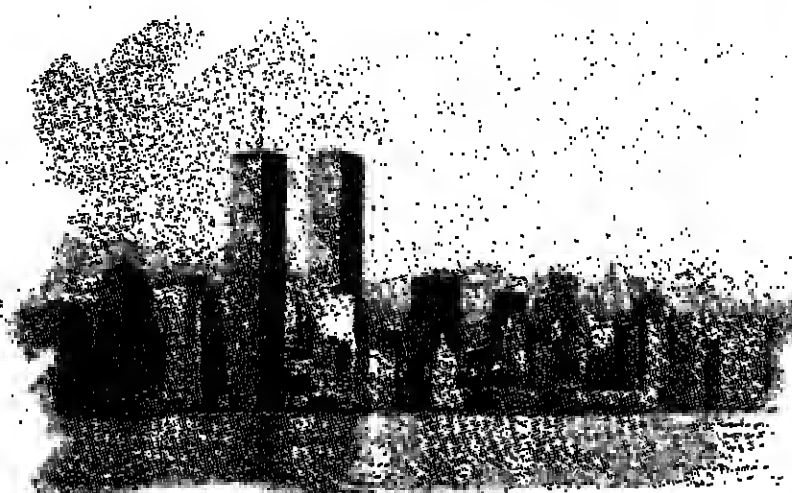
Now that Mr Yeltsin appears to have lost his direction and much of his prestige, it is doubtful whether he will be able to emerge from another hostile Congress with any real authority left. The vagueness of the provisional constitution means that nobody can say where legal authority lies. Ruslan Khasbulatov, the parliamentary speaker, is correct when he says that many of Mr Yeltsin's powers are "illegal", but then so are his own, because there is no real law on these matters.

In similar circumstances,

other presidents would launch some form of modified coup d'état, aimed at least at imposing a referendum or constituent assembly by decree or holding new elections immediately. To do this, Mr Yeltsin would need the support of the security forces, but this is unlikely to be forthcoming.

There is no precedent in history for a country simultaneously shedding an empire, reforming its economy and developing a democracy, while in the grip of an economic recession coupled with soaring inflation.

In this sense, to attack the present conservative parliament, elected in 1990, as dominated by the Communist establishment is accurate but largely beside the point. It is highly unlikely that new elections held tomorrow, or in 1995 will lead to a more orderly or a more pro-reformist parliament. For the majority of ordinary Russians, the process of reform since Mikhail Gorbachev came to power has been a disaster.



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French condemn talkative judges

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

THANKS to a clutch of zealous and leak-happy judges, a touch of soap opera has come to enliven France's mournful election campaign, stirring some vital new questions.

Among the questions are: Did "Bère" — as Pierre Bérégovoy, the working-class prime minister is known — really repay a big loan from an insider trader by giving him antique books; and who paid for the wall around the Mediterranean home of François Léotard, the glamorous contender for high office in the next government?

Since a general election is six weeks away, the public

charged with insider trading and implicated in other scandals. According to the family, M Bérégovoy repaid half the loan with books and antiques, a claim that has sparked mirth from cartoonists and television satirists. "Bère" said he had done nothing illegal, but the impact could hardly be worse since he has been leading the anti-corruption drive as well as the election campaign.

M Bérégovoy was given the electoral job because so many party officials have been tainted in other scandals. While the Socialists have been complaining of political mores in the Bérégovoy leak, their opponents are spotting skulduggery in the character assassination, as they see it, of M Léotard, one of the dynamic younger leaders of the centre-right UDF grouping. He was cleared on technical grounds of corruption charges on Friday, but the judges' report raised doubts about his property deals.

The deluge from the judiciary in mid-campaign has prompted pundits to assume some dark conspiracy. More to the point are the complaints over the institution of examining magistrates. The "petits juges" have great powers to conduct investigations amounting to preliminary trials.

A new law, bitterly opposed by the magistrates' union, will limit their powers to bring charges at an early stage. The reform, which takes effect later this year, is intended to stop the damage to the reputation of suspects who are later discharged without any trial. The destruction is often compounded by leaks or orchestrated by the judges.

More than 500 magistrates asked to be relieved of their duties in protest at what they see is a law benefiting criminals at the expense of their victims.



Bérégovoy: severe blow for "Mr Clean"

has been feasting on the leaks, charges and decisions from investigating judges, some of whom may have their own axes to grind.

The most illustrious victim of the judicial offensive is M Bérégovoy, whose image as "Mr Clean" has helped to repair some of the damage to President Mitterrand's administration.

Thanks to Judge Thierry Jean-Pierre, an investigating magistrate who has been crusading against corruption in the Socialist party, France learnt that M Bérégovoy had obtained an interest-free loan of £122,000 from Roger Patrice Pelat, a businessman, now dead, who was

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German cuts deepen concern over Nato's dwindling ranks



Rühe: open conflict with Chancellor Kohl

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BONN

THE open row that has erupted in Bonn between Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, and Volker Rühe, his minister of defence, over the size of the German army is symptomatic of a general unease in European defence ministries that the armed forces are now being asked to do too much with too few men.

Any further cuts in the Bundeswehr, the biggest army in West Europe, will have immediate implications for Nato's overall capabilities. The sharp criticism last week-end by Manfred Wörner, the Nato secretary-general, that Germany was cutting back too far and too fast, reflects the increasing concern in Brussels that many Nato members are

Germany's defence minister is critical of his country's haste to cash in the peace dividend. His view reflects doubts whether Nato has enough troops for peacekeeping

attempting to cash in the peace dividend too quickly at a time when the alliance is being drawn more and more into new peacekeeping roles.

The open revolt by Herr Rühe against Herr Kohl's announcement that the Bundeswehr may go below 300,000 men has been triggered partly by the plunging morale in the German armed forces. However, Herr Rühe's attitude reflects the worries in German military circles and in Nato that the alliance is becoming dangerously overstretched.

Herr Kohl insisted on Mon-

day that Bonn would not do anything without lengthy consultations in Brussels. He shares the worries of many here that, if the European forces are reduced too much, the Americans may be tempted to make further cuts in their force commitments to Europe. But he knows that the soaring deficit and the cost of reunification will force deep cuts in the defence budget, and that these will only aggravate the worries of other allies that Germany is still not ready to take part in new Nato peace enforcement measures in for-

mer Yugoslavia. Hence also the chancellor's impatience with the long domestic wrangle over a possible change in the constitution to allow German forces to be deployed out of the traditional area.

Nato's worries are not confined to Germany, however. Herr Wörner emphasised in Munich the alliance's new commitment, endorsed at last year's Oslo meeting, to make forces available for peacekeeping out of the traditional area. But each month the pool of soldiers available is shrinking. The Dutch and Belgians have already announced the halving of their forces by 1998 from 63,000 to 36,000 and from 68,700 to 27,500 respectively.

Other countries will greatly reduce numbers: the Italians from 260,000 to 174,000, the

French from 288,000 to 224,000 and the Americans will cut the number of personnel in all services in Europe from 375,000 to 100,000.

Nato sources yesterday gave details of the dwindling manpower that will be available to the alliance. According to the plans officially notified to Brussels, the overall force levels have already fallen by 10 per cent since 1990 and are due to be cut by a further 15-20 per cent by 1997.

Naval forces have come down 10 per cent since 1990 and are not due to fall much further. The combat aircraft committed to Nato have decreased 20 per cent since 1990 and will fall a further 10 per cent in the next two years. These figures are to be presented to Nato foreign ministers at the end of this month in

what looks like a cry of alarm from Herr Wörner. His main worry is that there could be further cuts not yet notified to Brussels, and that member states are now less willing to co-ordinate reductions with the alliance headquarters.

The force structure will also be affected. The rapid reaction forces are in fact over-subscribed, with each country offering to make men available for these divisions. But this is at the expense of the main Nato force, where countries are reluctant to commit themselves to the more expensive undertaking. The alliance agreed in 1991 on five corps for the main defence forces: two Dutch-German corps, two American-German corps and one Belgian-led corps with German and American divisions. "We now know that, of

these five corps agreed in 1991, at least one will no longer be possible," a source said.

This contrasts with the alliance's proclaimed readiness to undertake peacekeeping operations. In fact, the situation is worse than it looks on paper. Most of Europe's big armies are swollen by conscription. But there are deep doubts whether the French or Germans — assuming they resolve their constitutional difficulties — could send national services on dangerous missions such as Bosnia.

"Conscripts are not properly trained and hardened," one Western official said yesterday. "Those on peacekeeping missions have got to be very versatile, and this requires more than 12 months of training."

UN big powers look at ways to give Bosnia plan teeth

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BRITAIN and other key powers at the United Nations yesterday began drawing up proposals to toughen the Bosnian peace plan prepared by Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance to make it more acceptable to the Bosnian Muslims and their allies abroad.

The options under consideration include enforcing a no-fly zone over Bosnia as part of an overall peace settlement, setting up a special human rights commission and a war crimes court for the former Yugoslav republic, and authorising warplanes to attack any heavy weapons that violate the ceasefire.

In Washington yesterday, US officials said that President Clinton's top advisers had agreed the outlines of a diplomatic initiative to resolve the Bosnian conflict, but had yet to agree on how to enforce any eventual settlement. The administration is expected to appoint a special envoy to help negotiate an improved version of the Vance-Owen plan, but has not decided whether American military power should be used to police that plan. America's European al-

lies would probably insist on US participation in what is envisaged as a Nato policing operation mounted under UN auspices.

One European diplomat said: "We can't just wait for the Americans to take us by surprise." The diplomat went on: "The latest vibes from Washington are that they are thinking pretty much along the same lines as the rest of us, although they cannot yet say so."

When Lord Owen and Mr Vance briefed the UN Security Council about their plan on Monday night, council members were less concerned about the idea of dividing Bosnia into ten semi-autonomous provinces than they were about whether the plan could actually be implemented, even if signed by all sides in the conflict. Sir David Hannay, Britain's ambassador, told the council session that Britain would start drafting proposals to ensure that an agreement would not immediately be broken. Britain quickly scheduled talks with the other four permanent members of the security council — China,

France, Russia and the United States — and its European Community partners to discuss possible additions to the Vance-Owen plan.

Lord Owen and Mr Vance estimate that between 15,000 and 25,000 peacekeeping troops will be needed to implement the peace plan. But Britain and other security council members want to add more teeth to the implementation of the plan to accommodate the concerns of the Muslim-led government.

These council members believe, like Lord Owen and Mr Vance, that a peace agreement will have to be accompanied by enforcement of a no-fly zone over Bosnia with UN monitors placed at all Bosnian airfields and Western warplanes under UN authority patrolling the skies. Diplomats say that the planes used to enforce the no-fly zone would also be used to monitor heavy weapons after a ceasefire, and could be authorised to attack any heavy weapons found to be in violation of the peace accord.

If enacted in a security council resolution, these proposals could allow Muslim forces that the Bosnian Serbs will not withdraw their heavy weapons from areas awarded to the Muslims. Other proposals likely to be included in a new security council resolution are the creation of an international criminal court to try Bosnian war criminals and a special human rights commission to monitor human rights in the republic. The resolution is also likely to guarantee the unimpeded access of UN aid convoys throughout Bosnia to ensure that aid reaches besieged Muslim towns. Such moves could also be proposed by the Clinton administration.

Mr Clinton is expected to unveil the new US policy of "aggressive diplomacy" before the end of the week. America would seek to improve the present plan, so it did not reward or "appease" Serbian aggression. The hope would be to secure Russian participation in the new negotiations, thus transforming Moscow from a potential obstacle into an ally. Russia has threatened to veto any new sanctions against Serbia, with which it has traditional ties.

Pressure would be put on the Serbs to accept a new plan through tightened economic sanctions, in particular the severance of the Danube as a supply route and the creation of a war crimes tribunal.

Simon Jenkins, page 12
Letters, page 13

Network of hatred traps mercenaries

BY ADAM LEBOR

BRITISH volunteer fighters Derek Arnold, 40, and Ted Skinner, 38, were reportedly found trussed up and shot after being tortured near the frontline village of Turbe, in central Bosnia. It is not known who killed them, but their deaths illustrate the murky and perilous environment in which foreign fighters in Bosnia operate.

In theory Bosnian Croats and Muslims, together with dozens of foreign volunteers from Europe and several hundred Mujahidin from Arab and Islamic countries, are united against the Bosnian Serb army. But the Croat-Muslim alliance is crumbling in places as fighting between them erupts. The strictly Muslim Mujahidin are disliked by the Croats and also by some Bosnian Muslim fighters, especially the many women soldiers and officers.

Skinner and Arnold could often be found at the Bosnian army headquarters in shell-battered Travnik, where they had a flat, eating with their comrades-in-arms. They were well known to local soldiers,

several of whom they had trained. Like many volunteers — they said they were paid nothing and denied they were mercenaries — the men were initially secretive, wary of talking about themselves. But in an interview last month with *The Times*, they outlined their reasons for fighting in Bosnia. They described themselves as "soldiers of misfortune" and were after adventure but also seemed genuinely committed to the Bosnian cause.

Skinner drew a parallel between the foreign fighters in Bosnia and the International Brigades that fought in the Spanish civil war. "That was a practice run for Germany, using Spain as a testing ground for the Condor Legion," he said. "It would be terrible if the same thing happened here. If they get away with it in Bosnia, who's to say they won't in Kosovo?"

There are no reliable figures for the number of British fighters in the Bosnian army, but there are probably at least dozens. Most say they have served in the British army.



Winter burden: two Sarajevo women returning home yesterday after foraging for firewood in an abandoned house, a vital daily task

Sarajevo feels betrayed by absentee politicians

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN SARAJEVO

TEN months after the start of the siege of Sarajevo, soldiers and ordinary inhabitants are increasingly frustrated with the shortcomings of the civilian authorities, complaining that they do little to ease their plight. "Our army has done everything while the politicians often obstruct the war effort," Colonel Jovan Divjak, deputy commander of the army of Bosnia-Herzegovina, said. "They have failed to organise the supply of

arms, munitions and equipment and have neglected the social problems of the army. This has had a bad effect on the morale of our soldiers."

Colonel Divjak, an independent-minded Serb fighting with the mainly Muslim army, said it was unfair that workers in Bosnian munitions factories receive up to six times the pay of a soldier and that civil servants still work fixed hours from 9 to 5. "One day the political authorities will have to settle their account with the army," he said in his simple office decorated with a picture of Tito. "There are

many who have done well out of this war, selling on the black market and obtaining enormous amounts of foreign currency. The government will have to explain that at the end of the war."

In an attempt to reduce popular dissatisfaction, President Izetbegovic last week dismissed several ministers who used their position to go abroad at the start of the siege and have remained there ever since while continuing to draw their salaries. "Fifty per cent of government members are outside Sarajevo," Colonel

Divjak said. "Some of them were supposed to gather funds for Bosnia-Herzegovina. They wandered around Europe, but we have not seen any money. Others prefer to stay in the hotels of Zagreb."

Muhammad Krczyakovic, mayor of Sarajevo, has remained in the Bosnian capital since it was attacked by Serb forces last April. But he is scarcely more popular than the absentee ministers. "The mayor does nothing except make clumsy propaganda. We were better off under Tito," a Sarajevo journalist said.

Starvation drives out Muslims

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

THOUSANDS of Muslim refugees have been fleeing by night through the woods of eastern Bosnia. Officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said yesterday they feared that up to 50,000 more people were about to run for their lives.

The UN officials said the Muslims were travelling along "humanitarian corridors" opened by the Serbs. However, the officials believed that the corridors were in fact funnels through which enclaves resisting Serb rule were being emptied. "They are being starved and shelled out by Serb irregulars who do not want us to deliver food or assistance," said Sylvana Foa, the refugee agency's spokeswoman in Geneva.

More than 300 refugees are fleeing from the enclaves of

Kamenica and Cerska every day and others are joining them from the Serb-controlled town of Zvornik. In the past ten days 5,000 refugees have arrived in Tuzla. Many are reported to be suffering from scabies, malnutrition, lice, and frostbite.

In Belgrade, the refugee agency said that on January 30 the Serbs in eastern Bosnia told the Muslims in the enclaves that as a "humanitarian gesture" they could leave for Muslim territory. One official said the Muslims left after food ran out. Judith Kumin, the head of the agency in Belgrade, said: "This is 'ethnic cleansing' by another name."

In Belgrade, officials from the Serb-held enclave of Krajina in Croatia insist that Croat forces killed 830 civilians as they stormed over the ceasefire

Kravchuk faces tough fight on aid

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Kravchuk of Ukraine arrived in Britain yesterday for talks that are likely to test his chameleon-like qualities.

Mr Kravchuk will be pressed to do more to stop Russian oil reaching the rump Yugoslavia via his republic, in contravention of United Nations sanctions. He also faces tough negotiations on his desire for huge economic aid from the West and on the Start 1 strategic arms reduction treaty. The three-day state visit is the first by a president of what is now Europe's largest nation-state, and Mr Kravchuk set the tone for his trip before leaving home when he said that he wanted aid, but would not tolerate any conditions put on it.

The president, who will meet today John Major and Jacques Attali, head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, said: "If the West wishes to provide help, it must be done now and not as is often said, after essential things have been done or specific reforms carried out."

Ukraine has been less than euphoric about its relations with the West since the Soviet Union disintegrated, even though Whitehall recognised the Kiev regime on New Year's eve in 1991 and opened an embassy in the Ukrainian capital ten days later. Douglas Hurd, foreign secretary, visited the country a few days after that, but Ukraine has been slow to forget that Baroness Thatcher reacted to its campaign for sovereignty in 1990 by comparing it to Quebec.

Walesa rescues budget

Warsaw: President Walesa threw his weight behind Poland's shaky seven-party coalition government yesterday by threatening to dissolve parliament if it fails to approve this year's budget.

Losing the vote would hit the government's economic policy and would jeopardise a deal with the International Monetary Fund, which holds the key to agreements with other foreign creditors.

Mr Walesa said: "I very much want this parliament to continue to exist because we have so much to do, but we cannot go on playing much longer. Society wants results from us." (Reuters)

Gang unveiled

Federborn: German police have arrested three men suspected of being part of an international gang forcing East European schoolgirls into prostitution, after finding four under-age girls with false passports. (Reuters)

Briton held

Le Boulou: French officials have arrested a Briton after finding 121lb of cannabis in the car he was driving. The man, reportedly returning from Morocco, was detained at a motorway toll booth outside this town near the Franco-Spanish border. (AFP)

Busy line

Moscow: Children in Chisinau, Moldavia, have been running up huge telephone bills, some ten times the average monthly wage, by calling an Australian sex line to hear a Russian-speaking woman explain "how to make love". Tass said. (AFP)

Change of Interest Rates

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Ivan the Terrible's treasures unearthed

FROM REUTER IN MOSCOW

RUSSIAN archaeologists believe they have found the library and treasures of the 16th-century tsar Ivan the Terrible buried in an "underground city" north of Moscow, *Pravda* said yesterday.

Ivan Koltsov, an archaeologist, told the newspaper that he had come across the treasures, including priceless works of art, in a labyrinth of tunnels and underground chambers at the site of what was once Ivan's palace. The complex now lies beneath a monastery near Alexandrov.

Access to the area was denied by the church until the Communist revolution in 1917 when it was sealed by the Bolsheviks. But folk memory of the treasure remained alive. Researchers

found a letter by an inmate of one of Stalin's gulag labour camps offering to lead the way to the chambers, which he said he had seen three times. As a reward he demanded freedom, a luxury state limousine, five million roubles, a three-room flat with furniture and the right to study at the university of his choice. His letter, *Pravda* said, was noted with derision and filed.

Mr Koltsov said he had spoken to an old woman, the last curator of the monastery before the Bolsheviks seized it, who recalled the chambers and books. He had also come across children in Alexandrov playing with gold artefacts. They said they had found the articles in under-

ground tunnels opened up by landmines and long used by local people as a dump.

Mr Koltsov gave no details of the find beyond saying they were a unique legacy of Slav culture. Archaeologists had long sought the library of Ivan, a tyrant who laid the foundation of the modern Russian state in a series of ruthless wars of conquest, under the Kremlin. But, as with any treasure hunt, there were many false alarms. Many believed that Ivan had destroyed the books.

"Today we can say without any doubt that what we have found is the library of Ivan, books which were last seen by the contemporaries of the bloody tsar," Mr Koltsov said.



Tsar Ivan: books found in "underground city"

Washington team suffers ordeal of aliens 'witch hunt'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON is witnessing a latter-day version of the Salem witch hunts, the search for the Devil but for employers of illegal immigrants.

All candidates for hundreds of unfilled administration jobs are being asked if they have ever employed such people or failed to pay social security taxes for household servants.

part from Zoe Baird and Jimba Wood, President Clinton's first two choices for attorney-general, at least 12 people are said to have been asked over because they failed his new litmus test of the baby-boom generation.

America's newspapers are displaying still greater puritanical zeal, methodically assailing every member of the cabinet and Congress and demanding to know if they have ever violated employment laws.

"I was, of course, accused in the way in by 30 or 40

and said: "Have you ever

an illegal alien? Have

paid social security tax?"

Bruce Babbitt, the interior

secretary, told an audience

■ The agitation over employers of illegal nannies is trivial enough. The political ineptitude involved, however, reveals unsettling signs of worse stumbles to come

this week. He had replied 'no' and 'yes', and "there was a disappointed silence".

Employing illegal immigrants has been against the law since 1986, but the social security laws date from 1954 and are patently ridiculous. They require householders to pay taxes for any household employees earning more than \$50 (£35) a quarter. The going rate for babysitters in Washington is \$6 an hour, so many better-off households pay babysitters that much in a week and, according to the Internal Revenue Service, three-quarters of the two million American households that employ domestic servants fail to pay the required taxes.

Astonishingly, only one member of the cabinet, Ron Brown, the commerce secretary, has admitted violations. Of the 100 senators, 88 told *The New York Times* that they had broken no employment laws, 11 would not answer and one, Patty Murray, of Washington state, admitted paying no social security taxes for babysitters. Of 435 congressmen, a remarkable 398 insisted on their innocence.

Hardly surprisingly, the new front runner for attorney-general was reported yesterday to be Janet Reno, 54, a Miami prosecutor who is single and childless. So far, as *The Washington Post* put it yesterday, "Mr Clinton & Co have made a real hash of the selection". Commentators are flabbergasted that the president's team has bungled the choice not once, but twice, offending women and Hispanics in the process.

The row erupted just as the new administration was finding its feet and has revived all the charges of political ineptitude that marred Mr Clinton's first two weeks. Clearly missing the sharp populist instincts of his brilliant campaign

team, the president has now brought back his chief strategist, James Carville and Paul Begala, the pollster, Stanley Greenberg, and his media adviser, Mandy Grunwald, to recreate the campaign "war room".

Their main task will be to sell the economic recovery plan that Mr Clinton will unveil in next Wednesday's State of the Union address and the health care reform plan that Hillary Clinton is striving to complete by May. Mrs Clinton is now overseeing 20 working groups and 100 health care experts who are frantically working on ways of reforming an \$800 billion system that consumes 14 per cent of America's gross domestic product, leaves 37 million people uninsured and has long defied reform.

It will, of course, be on Mr Clinton's success in these two related areas that voters will judge him in 1996, by which time the dispute over domestic servants will be remembered, if at all, as an amusing little diversion. But the unsettling side of the affair is what it discloses about the new president. If he is really to revive the American economy and reform health care, he must make some extraordinarily hard decisions, take on numerous powerful lobbies and foist the idea of sacrifice on a nation pampered by 12 years of reckless deficit-financing.

Doing the right thing by Judge Wood was a mere trifle by comparison. Unlike Judge Baird, she had broken no rules in her pre-1986 employment of an illegal immigrant as a nanny and had paid the proper taxes, but the president decided the distinction would be too hard to explain to the public. Ms Wood was dropped "as if she were suddenly ethically radioactive," the *Los Angeles Times* said.



Faithful's farewell: Palestinian mourners take a last look at the body of Saad al-Din al-Alami, the Mufti of Jerusalem, one of the most senior religious leaders in the Islamic world, outside al-Aqsa mosque in the Old City. The mufti, 82, died of natural causes on Saturday

Clinton ends Aids immigrants ban

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton will lift a contentious six-year ban on people infected with the Aids virus from travelling or emigrating to the United States. White House officials said yesterday. They confirmed that the US health department has prepared details of the proposed change but no decision has been taken on when it should go into effect.

Immediately there were rumblings from Republicans and others that the admission of visitors or immigrants who were HIV-positive would pose a public health threat, adding new pressures to a health-care system already overburdened with Aids cases.

Removal of the ban would implement one of Mr Clinton's campaign promises, but he must be hoping the proposal does not provoke the same outcry that greeted his deter-

mination to fulfil another pledge of allowing homosexuals into the armed forces. Dee Dee Myers, press secretary to Mr Clinton, said he shares the feeling of doctors that letting HIV-infected foreigners into America does not represent a public health threat.

Homosexual and rights groups have fought the ban, saying it was discriminatory and a violation of privacy, but President Bush argued that people with Aids might become public charges. □ Pay and perks cut: Mr Clinton cut the payroll and perks at the White House yesterday. He announced that 350 jobs would go, a quarter of the total. He also restricted the use of chauffeur-driven limousines from home to work to just three officials, and turned an executive dining room into a cafeteria for all.

Stepsister attacks 'cover-up'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

BILL Clinton's stepsister, who spent six years in a Texas jail for armed robbery and drug offences, has accused the president and his advisers of trying to keep her quiet by concealing her during the American election — a charge which has been denied by the White House.

Dianne Welch, 46, became Mr Clinton's stepsister in 1968 when his mother, Virginia Kelley, made her third marriage to a hairdresser named Jeff Dwire. On American television last night Ms Welch said her famous stepbrother should be "ashamed" of trying to muzzle her — the self-styled "black sheep" of the family.

"I would like him to call me and apologise," she told the television programme *A Current Affair*. "Bill Clinton's Democratic party tried to shut me up. They tried to hide me away."

White House spokeswoman

Dee Dee Myers has acknowledged that the president and Ms Welch are related, but she dismissed the other claims as "simply not true". Ms Myers said Mr Clinton barely knew his stepsister, and had not spoken to her since 1975. Ms Welch was already married when Virginia Kelley married her father, and Bill Clinton was away at university. Jeff Dwire died in 1974.

Ms Welch's criminal career began in 1985 after the collapse of her marriage to Buford Welch, the owner of an oil company. She was arrested for stealing about \$622 at gunpoint from a building society in Sugar Land, Texas, and placed on probation. When she was caught with about 50lb of marijuana the following year she was sentenced, she says, to 45 years in prison.

She was released from Gatesville prison in Texas last year after an appeals court ruled she had not been properly

ly informed of the consequences of violating probation.

Ms Welch now claims that Texas Democrats took her to a hotel before the presidential election last November and urged her to keep quiet about her criminal past. Ms Welch said she believed her stepbrother was behind the request.

In last night's interview she said she would like to have a family reunion with the president. The White House has not yet responded to the offer although Ms Myers said yesterday that Ms Welch was "not likely" to be invited to the White House in the near future. "He doesn't have much occasion to know her," she added.

A spokesman for the television programme refused to say whether Ms Welch had been paid for the interview, but said "We do sometimes pay for exclusivity."

NEWS IN BRIEF

£1 bn boost to economy offered by Keating

Sydney: Paul Keating, the Australian prime minister, has launched a \$Aus2.6 billion (£1.2 billion) federal election campaign package to stimulate the faltering economy (Robert Cockburn writes).

Delivering his main economic statement in Sydney to launch Labor's campaign, he avoided direct job-creation measures. The package will commit \$Aus1.8 billion to lowering the corporate tax rate from 39 per cent to 33 per cent, try to increase investment and job prospects. Unemployment figures tomorrow are expected to top one million.

French add to Rwanda force

Geneva: France sent 150 more soldiers to Rwanda after guerrillas of the Rwandan Patriotic front continued to fight government troops around Kigali, in the northwest. The French foreign ministry said the troops were sent to ensure the safety of its 400 nationals in Rwanda. (AFP)

Governor killed

Kashgar: An explosion killed Asfandullah Mansouri, governor of Afghanistan's eastern Balkh province and leader of the Islamic Revolutionary Party, and four other people on a road south of Kabul. (AP)

Tourists shot at

Assist: Muslim militants shot at a bus carrying German tourists near Dayton, in upper Egypt, 195 miles south of Cairo. No one was hurt. (Reuters)

Gun suspect



Los Angeles: Damacio Torres, 40, of Los Angeles, who was shot and wounded three times in a city hospital and then held a doctor and receptionist hostage for five hours. He was apparently angered at medical care he received. (AP)

Fever kills 500

Nairobi: An epidemic of yellow fever has so far claimed 500 lives in the Rift Valley province of Kenya. Health officials have begun a mass vaccination campaign.

Mercy killing on the statute book

Dutch drive on down the liberal fast lane

BY TOM WALKER

THE legalising of euthanasia yesterday demonstrates once again that the Dutch are at the leading edge of social change in Europe. The Netherlands is Europe's most liberal society in areas from mercy killing to drugs and sexual mores.

Amsterdam has Europe's largest pornography industry, and brothels are now legalised and prostitutes given a health check-up every other month. In a typical café on the Scheldt estuary in southern Holland, hashish and marijuana are all listed and priced on a menu card hanging above an electronic balance. A bearded hippy carefully weighs the quantities and packs them into sealed plastic bags; the youths return to their tables and much fumbling with cigarette papers begins. It is all washed down with orange squash.

Den Engel — the angel — may be an extreme example of Dutch permissiveness, but soft drugs can be commonly obtained in bars across The Netherlands with the minimum of fuss. In Amstelveen, on the outskirts of Amsterdam, youths smoke dope, listen to Guns 'n' Roses and play chess. To the English mind, liberal Dutch society is full of jarring contradictions.

The Dutch parliament's de-



Dissenting voices: opponents of euthanasia pray and read their bibles outside parliament in The Hague

cision yesterday to allow mercy killing is, however, subject to strict conditions. The guidelines stipulate that a request for euthanasia be made personally by the patient, not by family or friends. The patient must be suffering unbearable and incurable pain, request death repeatedly and be in a

clear state of mind. A second medical opinion must be obtained. The measure does not formally legalise euthanasia, which is still punishable by up to 12 years in prison. Instead, it codifies existing medical guidelines approved by parliament as a defence against criminal liability for physi-

cians practising euthanasia. Doctors who follow the guidelines, although they still would be technically violating the law, will be guaranteed immunity from prosecution.

With the euthanasia bill now passed, the Dutch parliament in The Hague will now turn its attention to a bill to establish equal rights for homosexuals. It will forbid the sacking of gays from jobs simply because they have "come out of the closet".

This is in keeping with Dutch liberal sensibilities. The age of consent, 12, is lower than anywhere else in Europe, and drug addicts have their own union. All hotels seem to make an endless variety of cabled sex films available on television. For years the government has sponsored artists to produce art that nobody wants. The welfare state may have gone barney in Holland, but to the casual observer Dutch society ticks on like clockwork, perhaps the most regimented country in Europe after Germany.

Nine-to-five working hours are strictly adhered to and lunch breaks are quickly finished with. The stricter side of Dutch life shows itself in tough environmental laws, and almost draconian traffic rules where drivers can have their cars confiscated for speeding offences. Companies

are about to get tax breaks for encouraging the use of electric cars.

Arendo Jochstra, a Dutch journalist who has written a book on Ruud Lubbers, the prime minister, says the country's openness dates back to its roots as a trading nation. "We went to the East Indies, China, and Japan specifically to trade," he says. "We have to be open and tolerant. In the 17th century we were the only country to be allowed a trading post in Japan."

Traditionally, he says, Dutch society has divided itself into "pillars" — Roman Catholics, Calvinists, Jews and other groups. Tolerance between the pillars was preached but within their strict rules were observed. He says that system has now broken down into a more open society "where we have practical plans for each group, and it seems to work".

But The Netherlands is far from perfect, and behind the multicultural and tolerant society lie many of the problems besetting other European countries. Leniency on soft drugs may have helped control the problems with hard drugs, but violence is commonplace and football hooliganism is an ever-present problem.

Dutch vote, page 1

Parliament rejects Mobutu sacking

BY SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ZAIRE'S interim parliament yesterday rejected President Mobutu's order that Etienne Tshisekedi, the prime minister, should step down. The president sacked Mr Tshisekedi on Friday and ordered him to form a government "of public salvation".

The High Council of the Republic rejected the demands, but acknowledged "the necessity and the urgency" of forming a new government. It said Marshal Mobutu's demands were "inadmissible in view of his lack of power to dismiss the prime minister". Marshal Mobutu is expected to ignore the self-elected council.

The meeting of the council in the capital, Kinshasa, had been delayed for several hours while paramilitary police blockaded the streets round the parliament. The blockade was lifted at noon without any explanation after discussions with the government.

Elsewhere in the capital the streets were jammed as drivers queued to buy petrol from the handful of garage owners prepared to risk accepting the recently introduced five-million zaires note. Soldiers started looting ten days ago after Mr Tshisekedi's government called for a boycott of the note on the day on which the army was paid in the currency.

President Mobutu said last week that those petrol stations who refused to accept the five-million note would be seized by the state, while Mr Tshisekedi's supporters have resorted to murder to keep them off the streets.

Most petrol stations preferred to stay closed rather than risk being burnt to the ground for accepting the new bills or being seized for not doing so. Economic analysts agree that the introduction of the bill, worth about £1, was necessary to keep up with 1,000 per cent inflation.

Mr Tshisekedi said the currency would be inflationary. It is clear, however, that he wanted to force a confrontation with the president over who runs the economy.

America sets EC concessions as price for Gatt deal

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU AND GEORGE BROCK

AMERICA served notice yesterday that it was looking for further concessions from the European Community in talks tomorrow in Washington aimed at salvaging a new deal under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt), now more than two years overdue. Sir Leon Brittan, the European Community trade commissioner, is due to meet Mickey Kantor, the United States trade representative.

Raymond Seitz, the American ambassador to Britain, defended recent action to keep out European steel imports and exclude EC firms from public procurement

contracts, and said President Clinton was prepared to take further protective steps if other countries would not lower trade barriers.

Mr Seitz told the annual conference of the National Farmers' Union in London: "President Clinton is looking for a strong signal that Europe is equally prepared to take the hard decisions necessary to bring the [Gatt] talks to a successful conclusion."

To open up markets, he is prepared to lower barriers if others will follow suit; if not, he is prepared to enforce our trade laws. The ambassador said that Washington still saw last November's agree-

ment between the EC and the United States on reducing farm subsidies as the "linchpin" of a Gatt deal.

There was growing frustration in Washington that "six years of negotiating multilaterally have failed to produce an equitable trading agreement, so there is an increasing disposition at home to deal with the inequities unilaterally", Mr Seitz said.

The sanctions against European steelmakers and the ban on European telecommunications and general companies bidding for lucrative US federal procurement orders were prepared by the Bush administration.

But there are indications that the new administration is about to impose the first "Democrat" trade sanctions, on European and Japanese minivans and utility vehicles. The signs in Washington are that the strategy of singling out specific products for trade sanctions will continue, if not accelerate.

However, Sir Leon may find that the Clinton administration does not yet appear to have a coherent policy on resolving the seemingly never-ending issue of the world trade talks themselves.

The administration's deadline for presenting a Gatt accord to Congress is March

2. This deadline is almost certain to be extended until the summer, but not much longer since this would make the very concept of a deadline even more ridiculous than it has already become.

Sir Leon has been talking down the chances that Brussels and Washington can reach any quick deals. But EC sources also point to the urgent need for EC-US contacts to produce some results. Disputes over steel and public procurement could quickly become fully fledged trade wars if Europe and America cannot jointly improve the world's multilateral free trade rules.

GOVERNMENT AUCTION HANDBOOK

1993 EDITION

Ever wondered what happens to the stock and assets of a company when declared bankrupt? Ever considered where the property and possessions seized by HM Customs & Excise are sold? Ever questioned what the Official Receiver, Liquidators, Bailiffs and the Collector of Taxes do with the goods they sequester?

They are all sold off at private auction to the highest bidder. Various government departments enter goods for sale at these auctions — sometimes with no reserve prices! The goods offered at these government appointed auctions, have to be sold there and then for whatever they will fetch.

Most items realise no more than 10% of their market value. You will find all manner of goods there, including books, planes, automobiles, office equipment, jewellery, video cameras, televisions, fine art and much, much more. And all at knock-down prices. For example, a Canon photocopier, in first class condition that costs £4,900 new recently sold for £350 and a Telephone system costing £1,000 new sold for just £130.

Government auctions are held throughout the country approximately every two weeks. The only reason you may not have heard about them is simply because they are not widely publicised. Contrary to popular belief, these auctions are NOT a closed shop exclusively reserved for traders — anyone is allowed to attend them.

A new guide called *The Government Auction Handbook* provides a comprehensive list of auctions throughout the country — their sale days and times. Also included are instructions on how to pay the lowest possible price.

Get all the facts — order *The Government Auction Handbook* direct and save. To order, send name and address with payment of £12.95 (which includes postage and handling) to Camell Ltd, Dept. 889, Alresford, nr Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP, allowing up to 21 days for delivery. You can return the book within 30 days for full refund if not completely satisfied.



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A very present help in trouble

Libby Purves talks to Father Bernard Lynch, a homosexual and a Catholic priest, about what he learned when he was accused in America — and found innocent — of abusing a minor

It is difficult, on encountering the mild eye of Father Bernard Lynch and hearing his gentle Irish voice overlaid with faint New York twangs, not to find yourself forming the phrase "an innocent abroad". This man's personality is so very self-effacing that you look from him to his book, *A Priest on Trial* (Bloombury, £16.99), and wonder that they can be connected at all: for his life story is the stuff of epic and blockbuster with shades of Graham Greene, and his manner that of a nice, polite, young, country priest from Co. Clare.

Which is precisely what he is. Or was, before life took him across the Atlantic into the crisis surrounding the advent of Aids in a fearful, angry city, and thence into the dock in one of the scandals of the century. "Irish priest on sex charges", trumpeted the headlines, and "Pro gay priest accused of sex abuse". He was accused in 1988 of sexual abuse of a 14 year old boy and acquitted a year later in the Bronx Supreme Court as the prosecution case collapsed amid accusations of an FBI set-up. It is an experience from which he is, he says, only now recovering. "It's the penultimate charge, isn't it?" he says almost wonderingly. "Horrible..."

Bernard Lynch grew up, the eldest of six, in the far west of Ireland where his father drove a cart from the train station with the parcels. They were poor and devout as church mice, the children's treat being to creep into the local hotel for the sheer thrill of walking on carpet. When a concert ceremony demanded that every parent present their child with a box of chocolates, his mother had to wrap an empty box to keep the family's public pride intact.

Twenty years later he had celebrated Mass alongside the Pope in the Yankee stadium and become a chat-show icon, loved and hated with equal passion across America. The little Irish altar-boy, for whom everything behind the rails was magic, with "God there in his golden box" and the linen and the flowers so dazzling, this child of the church whose "purity" was safeguarded by the Dominic Savio Club (its teenage members strictly forbidden even to see a screen kiss),

became a young priest who struggled for baffled years with his own sexuality.

The docile pupil of the nuns became a teacher himself, and was to be run out of his job by a pressure group called Safe — Students Against Faggots in Education. He gave the last sacraments to Aids victims and carried them in bodybags through the streets in search of a funeral parlour that would even have them through the door; even found himself involved with American legal politics and violent pressure groups. This is the innocent abroad who was, in a storm of international publicity, found to be

'Priests are born, not made. I was born a priest and born gay and I cannot deny my nature nor reject the religion I grew up in'

innocent of all charges. And who now looks back down the long road from Cloughballymore seminary to the Bronx Supreme Court dock and defies the Vatican by affirming that he is homosexual, not necessarily celibate, and yet a priest. *Tu es sacerdos in aeternum*, in the words of the ordination ceremony that so frightened him two decades ago. A priest for eternity.

In his mild manner, and with a certain amount of defensive laughter, Fr Lynch explains where he stands as a priest. He works at Cara (Care and resources for People affected by Aids/HIV) in London, a religious support group, using his training as a therapist. We talked in his tiny counselling room while downstairs Cara's friends and clients ate a crowded "open lunch" (I was offered food the instant I walked in).

"I am still a member of my order, the Society of African Missions. I am still a priest. Technically I am on leave of absence. I can celebrate Mass, and give the sacraments, and often do." At the end of his book he reveals that he had a steady relationship with a man, which broke up; at present he has no such relationships, but is at odds with the church over the issue of priestly celibacy as well as homosexuality. "If you have the gift of celibacy it is a wonderful gift to bring to the priesthood, but there is a place for priesthood without celibacy. Priests are born, not made. I was born a priest and born gay and I cannot deny my nature nor reject the religion I grew up in. I would like the institutional church to change, but I am still in love with the Mass, the saints, the sacraments. I could as soon lose my skin as leave it."

All of which, though spoken with gentle, priestly humility, is fighting talk. The Vatican line today remains what it was in 1986, when the Pope issued a letter saying that homosexuals were "disordered in their nature and evil in their love".

Fr Lynch's frankness begins to explain the heat of the feelings his Aids work and ministry aroused in the mid-1980s, that highly-charged and terrified period of American homophobia. It makes it a little easier to understand how between a newly-appointed district attorney, a zealous FBI investigator and the machinations of Safe he ended up in the dock, notably unsupported by the Archdiocese of New York. Fighting for his freedom against allegations brought by a disturbed and abused boy he had counselled during his years as chaplain at Mount St Michael School in the Bronx.

The school time was previously a period he saw as one of his happiest. After the simplicity of Ireland and the bleakness of an African mission station, the chance to study psychology and work in a New York school was a liberation. "I was still pretty naive. The students were a far cry from the meek obedient Irish lads of my day." They brought him their drug problems, their stories of abuse, requests he found "astounding" — such as "Father, my girl friend is pregnant, can you loan me the



Survivor: Fr Lynch now works in Britain with a religious support group for people affected by HIV

money for an abortion?" I was the closest thing to a father many of them had known."

That the accusation grew out of that innocent period is something he still finds hard to talk about. The trial ended in April 1989 after the boy refused to give more evidence and admitted to having been

"cajoled" by the FBI agents, presumed by the defence to have been influenced by the pressure groups against homosexual teachers at the time. The experience left him shattered. "I am still in recovery. That anybody could believe it... it was very difficult to stay believing in myself. I had friends who knew me,

had known my struggle with sexuality, the whole mosaic of me — and whose disbelief in the story was fortifying. It helped that in real cases of abuse there has generally been a lot of smoke, other allegations and so on, beforehand. And here it was just the one boy. But it was terrible."

He could never, he says with rue emphasis, have assaulted a boy. "The link between gayness and paedophilia is such nonsense. People like Safe made that link, and it is psychologically wrong. We gays are more resilient, more resistant. We have had years of inoculation. For heaven's sake, we have taken showers with our own gender since childhood, and strained any feelings we might have. We are probably less likely to do it than a heterosexual confronted with a schoolgirl."

What happened, he says, was that the boy, abused previously and "believing that to gain affection he had to offer himself for sex", tried to seduce him. "I told him that such a relationship was wrong and impossible. I also assured him that I was still his friend. The day after the incident I called the head counsellor at the school and reported it."

Students Against Faggots in Education, however, ran him out of his job after he had become a highly visible spokesman for homosexual Catholics in the city during the furor surrounding employment rights for gays and the rising panic about Aids.

It is hard now to remember how things were in those years, before Hollywood and royalty began embracing Aids patients. For Fr Lynch "it was not unusual to go to the hospital and find Aids patients' meals left stone cold at their doors since the orderlies were afraid they would catch the disease. Parents and families did not want to know... more ashes of PWAs [Persons With Aids] have gone into the Hudson River than I care to remember." When he went on the Phil Donahue Show on television in 1986, a man came up and said: "We are going to find a boy to accuse you." At the time, he thought nothing of it.

But all through the involved, sulphurous tale of fear and loathing, through his defiance of the present Vatican, there runs warmth, even gaiety in the old sense. The kindest face of rural Catholic Ireland is still with him: his mother, before her death, was lovingly and acceptingly about his announcement of his sexual orientation. His father, despite being besieged by press over the shame of the trial, appeared on television "with me at his side, and said everyone that he loved me and was proud of me". And he says that harsh Papal words can take his church away from him.

He writes in his book that, as altar boy "quite simply, I loved the church. There I felt secure, low and accepted, and everything in its place and everyone was gentle and kind. I could be close to God in the Tabernacle and every time was my turn to cover the altar with the cloth I would whisper 'Jesus, love you'. I really believed He heard me, cared for me and understood me as no one else did. I still do."

Eventually, some prophets proclaim, "cybersex" could be better than the real thing. "If you are the kind of person who is longing for things you don't have in the world," says Mike Saenz, a "cybersex" pioneer, "you could realise your dreams."

The Times/Jameson Whiskey Event

Irish night out



The Times and Jameson Whiskey are offering readers the opportunity to taste and compare Irish whiskeys on February 15 and March 15. The tasting will be followed by a four course dinner with coffee and wine and a Jameson for just £35 a head.

THE MENU

Home made white pudding of rabbit with cabbage, sautéed potato and shallots

Dublin Bay prawn and crab soup

Poached fillets of lemon sole, mussels and bacon, chervil and dill cream or Boiled Cavan ham with colcannon mustard sauce or Braised beef, Guinness and oyster casserole, boxty potato

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Bewley's coffee or Barry's tea

The dinner is limited to 50 guests each date. To reserve your place send your cheque for £35 per person payable to Raitt Orr & Associates, with your address, telephone number and main course choice to Jane Brown, Raitt Orr & Associates, 34 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0RE. Telephone enquiries (071-828 5961).

JAMESON

Soldiers' boots, bones and barbed wire

A team of photographers has spent three years, and covered 375 miles, recording the last, poignant relics of life — and death — in the trenches

Seventy-five years after the guns fell silent on the Western Front, the site of the worst slaughter in human history seems to be giving up its ghosts. Intensive farming, urban sprawl, forestry and roads have reclaimed much of the blighted northern French landscape, leaving neat war cemeteries as the main witness to the death of four million in the first world war.

Yet, even now, anyone who ventures deep into the eerie woods covering the old trench lines in Picardy, Champagne or the Ardennes will come across hideous reminders of the war to end all wars. Left behind by the farmers, developers and souvenir-hunters are the dug-outs, barbed wire, graffiti, bones and the detritus of the soldiers' lives in the trenches. Something of the physical reality of Verdun, the Somme, Ypres, Cambrai and those other epic battles has been preserved in a photographic survey, completed last week by a team led by a French-American artist.

Jean Carlier has devoted the past three years to surveying the 375-mile front from Ostend to the Franco-Swiss border, with financial support from the Leverhulme trust and the French authorities. He conceived the project after a visit to Verdun in 1984. "I discovered that everything was still there. You still had French army wine bottles, ammunition, shells, soldiers' boots, bones, barbed wire."

M. Carlier, whose photographs will be exhibited in France and in the Imperial War Museum, London, later this year, says that a few fortresses, such as Verdun, were preserved as museums, but otherwise: "They put up nicely carved cemeteries with lawns and flowers. Everything became very clean. The memory of the war became sanitised. It wouldn't be bearable to envisage a loved one lying in a garbage heap. But that's what a battlefield looks

like. You had tins cans, excrement, old paper, dead rats, bodies mixed up with clothing. I thought enough photographs have been taken of monuments. What is left of this garbage dump interests me because nobody is looking at it."

The relics in M. Carlier's photographs are a mixture of the sinister and the pathetic. A human jaw-bone lies beside the rusting tins of what may have been a last meal. Machine gun emplacements, barbed wire and gaping craters give an inkling of the fire that faced the men who went over the top, dying.

The graffiti are the most moving memorials. Sometimes scrawled, sometimes carved elaborately into the walls of quarries, bunkers and farm buildings, these record the passage of long-gone units. F. Longford of the 20th Welsh and C. Thomson of the Royal Naval Division left their names on one wall at Loos. "We Germans are only afraid of God," says a carving at one ruined field headquarters in Lorraine. A quarry wall at Aisnes records the residence of both French units and the Prinz Carl grenadiers of Prussia. "Blighy Hall" is scrawled over the lintel of a British dressing station in the Ypres salient in Belgium (the wounded treated there could expect a ticket home).

Many of the relics M. Carlier photographed lie deep in the forests which have grown over the old trench lines, places where unexploded ordnance still poses dangers for the unwary. Despite the effects of thousands of tonnes of high explosive and poison gas, nature is gradually reclaiming the land, with the help of developers.

"This is a last look at the front before it is gone," says M. Carlier, who moved to New York in 1951 after a childhood in the France of the second world war. He is, he

says, appalled by the disappearance of the world wars from the collective memory. America is worst, he says. A recent survey suggested that 80 per cent of young Americans believed Russia fought alongside Germany in the second world war.

CHARLES BREMNER



War memorial: an old machine gun emplacement at Fort Souville in the Verdun area

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لحذا من الرص

Delusion is the name of the don't-wannabe-bald man's game. Barbara Toner reports



The roots of obsession

Nothing about men is more enduring or mysterious than their ever popular passion for the ginger wig. Even the rich and famous, especially the rich and famous, apparently prefer to look daft with something fake and funny on their heads than to admit they are balding.

Wig, weave, hairpiece, transplant — what ever it is, it is mad. You could admire the scalp worn naked and with dignity but you can't admire colour mating. You can look a bald man in the eye but where do you look when he's pretending he's not? You hesitate to name names because no one likes to hear the joke is on them, but have you seen Burt Reynolds?

The man was a balding sex symbol and now he has a crop of curls on his head that looks to me as if it was dropped on him from a great height. This is not an observation you would make to Ed Katz, replacer of hair to the stars, because Mr Reynolds not only wears but publicly endorses Mr Katz's product and Mr Katz is fierce.

He announces at once that he has \$3 million (£2.1 million) worth of law suits out against newspapers who have not treated his business with the solemnity it deserves. "So many people joke about it," he snaps. "If a man loses his hair, he loses his sexuality and his confidence. When he becomes bald he becomes inferior."

His product, on the other hand, is the best in the world, hair replaced so expertly that it can be worn 24 hours a day, shampooed and combed and what's more it weighs less than three grams. It's not a wig, it's not a piece, and no surgery is involved. Hair is just replaced with other stuff, which may or may not be hair. As for ginger, he scoffs at ginger. "Oxidation from using the wrong products," he says curtly. The answer is proper products, finest in the world, and perfect colour matching. When you ask why there are so many duff hairpieces on heads that should know better, he replies: "Why does the Queen of England not know how to dress? Money does not buy class. Eighty-five per cent of men don't know what looks good on them."

This is confirmed by David Hamilton of Wig Specialities, the London firm which says that half of its clients are famous. Its policy is "least is best", its speciality is the featherweight hairpiece updated every three or four years. "It's amazing how people see themselves," Mr Hamilton says. "We say, 'how about a bit of grey to blend with the grey of your hair?' and they say 'no grey'. They have an image of themselves when they were young and that's what they want, so we do it and it looks absolutely disgusting. Sometimes we'd like to put a card around their necks saying 'the customer asked for this'."

Stuck the firm may be with a two-toned head but it does its best to avoid the ginger. "Toupees fade," Mr Hamilton says. "It's real hair and the sun takes the colour out of it."

If delusion is the name of the don't-wannabe-bald's game, the \$64,000 question is who are they kidding? According to Ed Katz and David Hamilton, it is the rest of us because by-and-large their work goes unrecognised. They will not name clients because once their work is spotted it has failed.

"You can mention Burt," says Ed Katz grudgingly. David Hamilton admits to Sean Connery and David Niven but only because the former couldn't care less who knows, and the latter is not in a position to. "Just before David Niven died, he came to see us because he wanted a piece for the back of his head. He was going to appear at a function with Fred Astaire standing on one side of him and Gene Kelly on the other and he said they'd be looking at him as if they were wearing stair carpets so he wanted something subtle."

But why had he bothered? Why do any of them bother? The London hairstylist Joshua Galvin, himself as bald as an egg, says hair loss is far from being a fashion disaster. "If you're going bald there's lots you can do with what's left but you shouldn't try to wrap it up and you shouldn't chase your parting all over your head." He thinks men, generally vainer than women, are kidding themselves if they think hairpieces will make them look younger.

Sometimes you can't avoid seeing yourself as others see you, David Hamilton says that Paul Daniels gave up wearing his notoriously ginger wig after *Sitting Image* did a sketch called *One Man and His Wig* in which he featured. Mr Daniels's manager, however, says this was not the case. Mr Daniels gave up wearing a wig because he felt happier without it and he only wore one in the first place because he lost his hair when he was very young. "People accept you for what you are," the manager says sagely.

Elton John's manager is less sage, though the singer's hair is just as interesting. He says Elton certainly wouldn't talk about it and nor would he. Elton's publicity agent, however, is more forthcoming. He cannot comment on why Elton wears a wig but he can report that he is very happy with it and that he has it tightened and maintained regularly.

This will not be cheap. Ed Katz was coy about the cost of his hair replacement. Stabs in the dark put the annual outlay somewhere between \$1,000 (£700) and \$10,000 (£7,000). Wig Specialities' hair pieces, being more modest, cost in the region of £400.

They must be worth it but God knows why. So does Ed Katz. He says bald people have been persecuted back to the days of the ancient Egyptians and Greeks and that today's society is as baldist as ever.

Yet to wear something fake takes guts. This is a wigist, weavist society as well, not for the men who get away with it, you understand, but for the men who don't and we all know who they are.



Michael Milken, junk bond king, before and after jail sentence



Super role model for girls



SARAH MOWER

My worst interview ever was with Isabella Rossellini. She was in London on a promo job for Lancôme and her patience had apparently been worn down by two days' relentless questioning by beauty editors. Or maybe she had PMT. Anyway, when I asked her an innocuous question about the difference between modelling and acting, she suddenly blew up. "What do you mean?" she barked. "That modelling is so shallow and acting so deep and unfathomable? Are you calling me stupid?"

Goodness me, of course I wasn't. I'd thought merely that Ms Rossellini — being both an actress and a model — might offer some intelligent insight into the imaginative processes, and the physical strains, that go into fashion photography, a subject rarely written about from the model's point of view. Ms Rossellini was having none of it. From there on the interview was a disaster, and I made my excuses and fled.

These days, the imputation of stupidity is not one that a journalist should lay, even unintentionally, at the door of a successful model. Where once we shook our heads over the long-term fates of vulnerable, uneducated girls who went into modelling to fall prey to drugs, men or psychological trauma, we must now respect them as smart and in control of their own destinies.

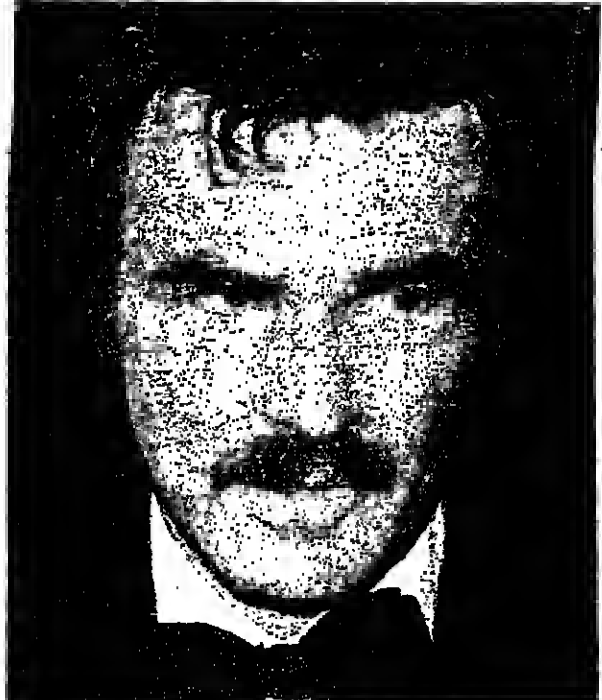
On the fashion circuit, you can see the effect in operation at all levels of the modelling business. In Paris during couture week, I was riveted by the sight of an apparently underage girl in pigtails and the skimpiest grunge get-up who was turning astonished heads at La Stresa, a restaurant packed with magazine editors, store buyers and photographers. At five yards, she looked the classic defenceless child-model, but she turned out to be a British graduate on the make. Pigtails, indeed! Absolutely perfect as a post-Kate Moss self-marketing ploy. And it was working — everybody in the place had to know who she was. No fear about who was manipulating whom there.

At the top end, models are turning the tables on another of the time-honoured processes of fashion, too. Where a model's job was once, by definition, to obliterate her personality in order to put over the designers' vision, now she is almost as likely to set trends the designers follow. A case in point is Helena Christensen, the Danish model, who began showing up for fittings and photo sessions in antique 1930s chiffon dresses at a time when all the other girls were in skin-tight Alaiá. Eighteen months later, the catwalks are full of waffing 1930s chiffon and Helena looks like the cat who got the cream.

The new caniness of the would-be model and the extraordinary wealth and influence of the made-it model may be among the least foreseen victories for the forces of feminism. Feminists, indeed, may not approve. Many middle-class mothers will have had anxiety fits when their 14-year-old daughters came home clutching copies of the new *Supermodel*. How difficult will they find it to argue the case against modelling, when the million-dollar contracts, the work-out videos, the television shows and commercials of Cindy, Claudia, Naomi, Christy and Linda are slavishly emulated in every issue? And how difficult will they find it to counter-blast a teenage tantrum with the example of the young female role-models we had to look up to in our youth? Think about it: we had none.

Our teenage magazines were full of adoring stuff about male pop stars and the summit of our dreams was to imagine being their girlfriends. Now, at least, the dream package gives the girl the limelight and the earning power, and makes the pop star her follower. Which fantasy is the healthier?

I can offer only one shred of current anti-modelling evidence for desperate mothers. It came in Jonathan Ross's interview with Naomi Campbell last week, during which she lamented having been photographed in a compromising position in Madonna's book, *Sex*. "It upset a lot of my friends and family," Ms Campbell said. When he asked how it happened, she pleaded, "I didn't know what they were doing and when I turned up on the set it was too late to back out." Ms Campbell's mistake sounded curiously like the classic trap all mothers believe their daughters will fall into at the beginning of a modelling career. The difference is that Ms Campbell is one of the most well-paid and experienced girls around, and she still did it. It seems that even smart, tough, multi-millionaire models sometimes do stupid things, after all. Incidentally, Isabella Rossellini appeared in the book, too. I wonder what her excuse was?



As if we hadn't guessed: Elton John, top, Burt Reynolds, left, and Frank Sinatra with thatch on the bald patch

Quality — on the button

The shirt-makers of Jermyn Street are decidedly a cuff above the rest

Is the "Jermyn Street shirt" still a byword for the very best of British quality and understated elegance? Or has the term been irredeemably debased by high street retailers and mail-order companies who shamelessly offer "Jermyn Street" cut, fabric and finish for — it is implied — a fraction of the price?

The most renowned shirt-maker in this famous street in the St James district of London is Turnbull & Asser — established over 100 years ago, and for the past decade by appointment to HRH the Prince of Wales.

"We regard their use of the Jermyn Street name as a compliment," says the company's retail director, Eric Humblies. "It has become something of a generic term for excellence in the field — the Savile Row suit, the Rolls-Royce and so on — but each of the shops here is proud of its individual reputation; there is no one shirt style available, we all have our ballmarks."

Indeed — and those of Turnbull & Asser are the most recognisable: very deep collars, a slim body cut (squat-necked fannies would be well advised to go for the made-to-measure service) and three buttons on the cuffs.

All the sometimes quite startling fabrics are woven exclusively for the firm, in quite short runs, only the more basic plain colours and Bengal stripes surviving from season to season. This ensures that a visit to the Art Nouveau shop is never, ever dull. Turnbull shirts bridge the gap between traditional quality and the zingiest of the new — as is true also of the firm's unsurpassable ties and jackets.

Hawes & Curtis, further down the street, is a part of the Turnbull company (actually owned by the Al-Fayed brothers of Harrods fame) but here the basic shirt is rather different: still the beautifully smooth two-fold cotton and split yoke construction that is the basis of any Jermyn Street shirt, but a smaller collar, a fuller body — and only two buttons on the cuff. Patterns and colours tend to be more conservative, very much on a par with Harvie & Hudson (now in the third generation of family ownership, and whose drab and utterly homely premises have remained blissfully unchanged for decades) and Hilditch & Key — the other main player in the game.

The really good news, however, is that none of this excellence costs nearly as much as the uninitiated might imagine: the average price for a shirt is around £60 — although even Turnbull & Asser (which tends to be the most expensive) offers a basic plain at £51, the most expensive off-the-peg offering coming in at £115. Even for the sybaritic pleasure of having shirts made to measure, the average cost is £85 (although Turnbull stipulate that the initial order must be for at least half a dozen — each as different as you please).

James Meade, the principal mail-order company for high quality shirts, which regularly invokes the cachet of the Jermyn Street name, offers its product at around £40, while

the estimable Thomas Pink of nearby Dover Street somehow manage to sell the real thing at about that price.

But which shop — regardless of price — sells the very best shirt in London? The answer is far from cut and dried, because of the factors that may not be immediately apparent when the shirts are pinned and baled in their transparent wrapping.

If you want the boldest, most up-to-the-minute patterns and

you are possessed of a flat stomach and an elegant neck, Turnbull & Asser is the place. If you like the ritzy patterns idea, but would prefer a less severe collar and a slightly looser cut, then I recommend Hawes & Curtis — possibly the friendliest shop in the street. For slightly more traditional fabrics and an easier cut yet, you should go to Harvie & Hudson and Hilditch & Key, while Thomas Pink has the most generous cut of all, although the patterns fail to set the world alight.

JOSEPH CONNOLLY
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The Prince of Wales: seal of approval for Turnbull & Asser

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Alan Coren



English literature will be enriched by television and a cup of instant coffee

This is a big week for English literature. It is not every week that English literature is presented with both a milestone and a yardstick. One possibly a milestone and the other a yardstick, since we may well need the former to compare this literary week with all the thousands of literary weeks which have preceded it, and we may well one day need the latter to mark the fact that English literature did not, perhaps, advance quite as far as this week has led us to hope.

This week, a new novel was published called *Love Over Gold*: a shrewd title, in that one end of it suggests romance, the other end suggests money, and the middle suggests what it general suggests, these days. However, in that these three threads have ever comprised fiction's commonest wool, there is nothing new about this new novel except the way in which it is new; it is that alone which makes it novel. For it is the story of two people whose sexual haggling has already been carried out in front of us since 1987, in order to persuade us to buy the instant coffee granules which brought them together. Though not as together, mind, as we might have expected after six years of witless ogling and smirking; even for a culture whose fiction has always relied so heavily upon the principle of procrastinated consummation, this was stretching things a bit, or, as it were, not, which was why I fell so eagerly upon the review copy Corgi sent me yesterday: I wanted to know what was wrong with the pair of them, they look all right on screen, no obvious signs of bad breath or funny little habits, could it be that Gold Blend made you impotent? No, take that knuckle from your teeth, I am here to tell you that they finally wind up in the sack, so with the £3.99 I have just saved you on the book, you may safely run out and buy two large jars of the coffee, no harm will come to you.

So how can such an ordinary literary work make this such an extraordinary literary week? Because, as I read it, I could see the people, I could hear the people, I could know the people. I have never before been able to enjoy the same certainty with any other novel. Tell me exactly how Raskolnikov grins, how Gatsby talks, how Clarissa crosses her legs, and as for the minuscule but unspiced details of personality... as Mrs F.R. Leavis (the smarter half, remarks in *Fiction and the Reading Public*, "it is not merely that novelists are doomed to the inevitably inadequate description of their characters; they can never know what prejudicial encumbrances the reader brings to them." In short, if you read that "Brodski was a small fat man with wispy ginger hair and little piggy eyes", and your Uncle Norman looks a bit like that, your Uncle Norman becomes, ineradicably, Brodski.

But there is more to it than that. Characters are what have stopped me, hitherto, from writing novels. I have a drawerful of plots and a processorful of words, but I cannot do credible characters. He is a tricky cove, your Johnny human, limitless of nuance, and I have never been able to get one down on paper so that he came believably off. Now, however, thanks to television and the signpost so auspiciously nailed up by *Love Over Gold*, I (and, at a guess, countless frustrated hacks like me) need have no more fears. Once, I might have written: "A tall, gaunt, horse-faced man strode into the room. At first, all eyes were riveted upon his floral tie and his scarlet socks, but when he spoke, it was with a curious nasal lilt which instantly bespoke that unsettling mixture of authority and dotiness which suggested that..."

Now, neither of us is much nearer anything, are we? I could ramble on for a dozen pages not getting him quite right, by which time you would be back at Waterstone's sorting out a credit note. But this week, all that has changed: this week, I can write, "Jeremy Paxman strode into the room, and we all know instantly, where we are. Similarly, I could get him to run away with Judith Chalmers, push Bruce Forsyth off Beachy Head, open a whisky stall with Trevor MacDonald, and my readership would have no difficulty at all in tuning to my precise wavelength.

I leave you now. The muse calls, and it may well be that *The Giant Melon of Samarra* is a story for which the world is finally prepared.

Either way, I can't lose



The swamp of civil war

As a gesture of support for the Owen-Vance peace plan, the BBC on Monday screened Martin Bell's *Panorama* documentary on the Bosnian civil war. It was a ferocious plea by a brave reporter for the world to intervene. But it ended with a tendentious assertion:

"To intervene will cost lives; not to intervene will cost more. It is fundamentally a question of whether we care." I am sure Mr Bell would say that he was unbiased except in his abhorrence of war. Whereas newspapers still use restraint in what they picture, television does not. We were given the pornography of violence and the pornography of grief in full flood. We had screaming injured, full frontal nudity and slit throats. We had detailed, gory (and unspiced) accounts of "systematic child rape". But Mr Bell showed both Serb and Muslim atrocities and emphasised that, in civil war, horror knows no boundaries. He showed what he saw and he saw a lot.

But he was biased. He used the images to make the world want to "come and stop the killing". He never said how. He wanted to blot out thought. His was a bias against understanding. Such heart-rending reports have become the recruiting songs for America's "new world order". They are moralistic and defy criticism. Similar poems to intervention goaded America into Vietnam and Beirut. Later the same reporters return to ask, "Who got us into this mess?" The captains and the kings depart, with mocking cameras in attendance.

I could plead with the BBC for a right of reply. I might try to lead viewers through the implications of Monday's *Panorama*. I might argue that Bosnia's ethnic upheavals will not be reversed for a long time, least of all by outside force; that external policemen at best freeze territorial gains (as in Croatia), at worst become everybody's target (as in Beirut). I, too, might use emotional images of the accidents of thoughtless intervention: corpses in the Congo, dead marines in Beirut, Choud villages smashed by naval gunfire, the fried bodies of Iraqi civilians. I could play the drumroll over the bodybags. I could protest at the only-whites-matter hypocrisy. Why no *Panorama* on that week's atrocities in Kabul or Nagorno-Karabakh or southern Sudan? Are the corpses not Western enough? World order becomes a moral issue only when "close to home".

Western governments are rightly fighting shy of the Bosnian hysteria, but

We will pretend to help Bosnia, knowing that if we sink too deep we can always get out. Where's the morality in that?

their nervousness is palpable. The Owen-Vance plan is what Lord Owen calls "the only show in town"—true if by town you mean America.

It is a deft constitutional carve up of Bosnia that struggles to reflect the balance of power on the ground. But it does not give the Serbs all they now have, nor does it give the Bosnians what they believe outside intervention and more arms shipments might bring. Both thus have an interest in continuing war. War is still the only show in the town that matters.

If Mr Bell made nothing else plain on Monday, it was that this is a classic civil

war and one that has by no means achieved the point of exhaustion, where each side collapses under the authority of the nearest guarantor of order. That point has been achieved in Lebanon. The Syrian intervention was postponed by Israeli and then multinational attempts at "peacemaking", a peace that left thousands dead. The Syrian army was guilty of atrocities that make the Serbs seem like angels. But it has brought a sort of peace to Lebanon because Syria's security requires it. The Serbs and Croats will partition Bosnia between themselves and like Cyprus it will be grimly peaceful—sooner or later.

But sooner or later? The Owen-Vance plan could conceivably make it sooner, if America accepts the plan's realpolitik and disapproves Bosnia's lobbyists. If it sends 25,000 troops to police Owen-Vance's ten cantons as an "act of faith". Just conceivably, the prospect of 25,000 American troops in United Nations' colours flattening every supposed Serb enclave in Bosnia might help burn out the war—more than it inflames Slav nationalism and draws Russia into the conflict. Just conceivably it might induce the Serbian units to stumble apologetically back to their diminished cantons. Just conceivably, blanketing Bosnia in Western infantry mandated to kill might impose a breathing space, even spare some lives for a while. Just conceivably

the breathing space might not be used by the factions, as were all previous ones, merely to re-arm for revenge when the West goes home (as reportedly now in Somalia).

This is a truly monumental list of ifs and conceivables. Far more likely is a morass of guerrilla firefights across Bosnia between random UN units and local warlords over the control of individual tracts of land. To find a model for this we need not look back to Beirut or Southern Lebanon, simply to Krajina last week. UN trusteeship is not appropriate to a land at war out with its neighbours but with itself. Ruling Bosnia from outside would be hell, and only postpone a bigger hell.

Simon Jenkins

Yet we seem about to try this "only game in town", to appease public opinion by cynically proclaiming a version of Owen-Vance that Western governments privately accept will probably prolong the war. The cost will be high: perhaps thousands of British and American troops jammed into warring communities across the mountains of Bosnia, getting killed wherever a ceasefire fails to hold.

Mr Bell tells us fewer people will die as a result. History says he is wrong. It tells us that more people die when outsiders intervene than when a civil war is burning itself out. I know of no case where a plan like Owen-Vance has worked. Mr Bell is reaching up to us from a swamp. He is trying to drag us into it, on pain of being called heartless. We will pretend to help, knowing that if we sink too deep we can always get out. Where's the morality in that?

The Bosnian war has revealed a painful gap in modern international relations. The UN charter supposedly protects all states, autocratic as well as democratic, from interference in their internal affairs. It also upholds the principle of self-determination. America has taken to tearing this up where it suits the president of the day, most recently in

Iraq. But nothing is in its place, certainly nothing to explain to the world where and why intervention is justified and can be expected.

The end of communism is leading to a fragmentation of states into their ethnic components. This is said to be bad and to be resisted. Warren Christopher, President Clinton's new secretary of state, recently called for "preventive diplomacy" to ensure that ethnic groups live at peace with each other inside existing states. "or we'll have 5,000 countries rather than the hundred plus we have now".

That may cause the state department a headache, but who is Mr Christopher thus to lay down the law? If Antigua, Luxembourg, Latvia, Slovenia, why not fragmented even partitioned Bosnia? He may say there must be some framework of regional stability. If Greater Serbia is tolerated, why not Greater Serbia? Thus does morality slide into double standard.

I believe a reversion to small states, even tiny tribal ones, is probably the inevitable post-communist precursor to rebuilding big ones. Civic responsibility must be rooted in domestic security before communities will surrender power to distant authority. Small states are the political equivalent of small businesses. Democracy like capitalism must grow from the bottom up. The Owen-Vance plan for ten autonomous Bosnian provinces is thus theoretically sound. They must sense self-determination on the ground or each enclave will fight for it to the last ruined farmhouse.

But that is a constitutional principle, not a peace plan. It cannot be imposed "top down" over the barrel of a UN gun. Sending thousands of "peace-makers" to Bosnia will have the same effect as it has had in Northern Ireland. It will relieve local leaders of the obligation to take even the first step to peace, the step of compromise. It will freeze hatred before violence has spent itself. It will kill more people in the end. And in the end Greater Serbia will still exist. I would love the Owen-Vance plan to work, but I cannot believe the mountain of bluff required for its implementation will not be called.

Mr Bell claims that intervening is a sign of caring. I disagree. In Bosnia it means asking soldiers to risk their lives and more Bosnian lives, roerly to get a particular pile of corpses off the nation's screen. That is not caring. It is a way of trying not to care.

"Ah," he said, "my Chancellor and I are very heartened to see green shoots on every table." Just the economy to go then.

Backward advances

TWO American publishers have signed a record-breaking \$2 million advance for a hitherto unknown American screenwriter. The 1,000-page manuscript, about a doctor who discovers a neo-Nazi plot in Europe, is written by Allan R. Folsom, a Californian whose career highlight to date is two episodes of *Hart to Hart*.

Cynics, however, say that *The Day After Tomorrow*, bought jointly by Little, Brown and Time Warner Books last week, has echoes of the schlock-horror film *They Saved Hitler's Brain*. The film's plot followed the efforts of a woman to find her father, a scientist who had been captured by neo-Nazis, who in turn were ordered around by Hitler's disembodied head.

The head also makes a bloody entrance in *The Day After Tomorrow*. Folsom's agent, Aaron M. Priest, resents any suggestions that the book is derived from the film: "The book is not at all like the film. Anyway, Hitler's head only appears on the very last page." Aaw, now you've spoiled the surprise.

Reality confronts the ANC

R.W. Johnson
on power-sharing,
the only option

The re-opening of formal constitutional talks between the South African government and the African National Congress today has been accompanied by copious press leaks about the conclusions to which these talks have come—the power-sharing compromise to last at least until the end of the century. These leaks are possible because both sides have realised that domestic and international confidence will not easily survive another calamitous breakdown of negotiations, and so secret meetings have been going on for months.

Formal talks can reopen now only because these pre-negotiations have pretty well sewn up the power-sharing deal in advance. Only the fact that both sides will probably use the talks to secure last-minute advantages will prevent them from bearing a purely rubber-stamp and ceremonial character.

The agreement represents a notable success for President de Klerk who has consistently argued that a simple majority-rule system would be disastrous for South Africa. But the real architect of the compromise is the Communist party (SACP) leader, Joe Slovo.

Early on it appeared that the ANC's bargaining position would be undermined by its doctrinaire insistence on the continuation of the armed struggle by its guerrilla wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), and by its commitment to the sweeping nationalisation of the means of production. Both commitments stemmed from the movement's ideological past; both were opposed by a great chorus of domestic and international interests; but both were recited like mantras by the movement's militants on the ground.

Mr Slovo, for long the boss of MK, was quick to realise that his outside left status would make it easier for him to lead change. First he helped push through a commitment to "suspend" (and in practice, abandon) the armed struggle and then he floated a discussion paper, "Has Socialism Failed?" The paper itself amounted to little, but the sight of the SACP boss airing public doubts about socialism had the, doubtless, desired effect: all trace of the nationalisation pledge faded out.

Constitutional negotiations broke up last year essentially because the ANC could not agree to two key government demands—for power-sharing and federalism. Before long, wiser voices within the ANC began to urge the inevitability of power-sharing, with whites holding all the top positions in business, the army, police and civil service, the only alternative to power-sharing is a complete shambles. Moreover, all opinion polls show that the vast majority of Africans prefer the power-sharing solution to that of majority rule.

So, late last year Mr Slovo again moved to break the deadlock, this time with another discussion paper in favour of power-sharing. As before, this paper was then pushed through the ANC apparatus by the usual old organisational tricks the SACP had learned in Stalinist times.

All of this begins to make it seem likely that Mr Slovo will, remarkably, become a key figure in the new coalition government when it is formed. President de Klerk may justify Mr Slovo's inclusion to conservative whites by claiming that this leopard really has changed his spots, but the real point is simply that if Mr Slovo is calling the ANC shots, it is better to have him doing so from inside the government rather than outside. The notion that South Africa could become the only country in the post-Cold War world to invite communists to enter the government is no less surreal than that the triumph of African nationalism should propel to power Mr Slovo—a white Jewish lawyer in his Sixties, suffering from cancer. These ironies have been duly noted by the Pan Africanist Congress and the ANC's more Africanist elements, but paucity of strategic thinkers in the ANC leadership alone seems enough to guarantee Mr Slovo's position as long as his health allows him to continue.

Federalism—the most significant form of power-sharing of all—is the great question which remains. Without large concessions on this issue by the ANC, it is impossible to imagine a lasting peace with Chief Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, or the white right. Indeed, to refuse federalism is to risk secession and the break-up of the country in much the same way that the Soviet Union fell apart. But it will be hard enough for the ANC to sell power-sharing to its more militant followers—and the PAC will exploit the situation for all it is worth—without having to sell concessions to Chief Buthelezi on top of that. Yet this is the only sensible way out of the impasse: there is simply no precedent for a country as large and diverse as South Africa even attempting democracy without federalism.

The danger now exists that the ANC will feel it has done enough by compromising with white power and that in practice Mr de Klerk will collaborate with it in crushing Chief Buthelezi. This would be the road to a bloody civil war. The power-sharing agreement is the best news South Africa has had for three years. It would be better still if we were soon to hear that Mr Slovo was about to circulate a new discussion paper, this time on the subject of federalism.

The author, a fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, is engaged on research in South Africa.

Chamber of honours

IT IS not only the Tory landed gentry who will rise up from the shires to fight John Smith's plans to reform the House of Lords. Some of Labour's hereditary peers are none too happy with the scheme, outlined by Smith in *The Times* yesterday, under which hereditary peers would be barred from the upper house.

Lord Longford, who has been in the Lords for more than 40 years, agrees that the hereditary principle is indefensible. "We have the best debates in the world, but the worst possible voting system," he says. But Smith's plan eventually to replace the Lords with an elected second chamber fails to impress the veteran panel reform campaigner. "The only people who would stand for election would be failed politicians, politicians who are not good enough for the House of Commons, or old politicians," says Longford, himself aged 87.

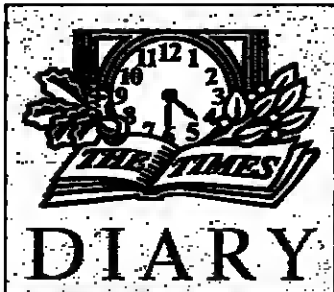
The longest-serving member of the Lords, Lord Listowel, who took his seat in 1932, has heard it all before. "Many have threatened us with extinction. But once Labour gets into power, the composition of the Lords slips down the priority

list." Listowel, at 86 still an active member, does not agree that the hereditary peers should disappear quickly. "They make an enormous contribution to the quality of our debates. Rather than abolish them I would allow the present generation of hereditary peers to be the last one. But they would have to forfeit their vote."

Smith's pledge, however, delights Labour's youngest hereditary peer, 34-year-old Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede. Ponsonby says: "I for one would be delighted to hang up my ermine. I said in my maiden speech I would abolish the House of Lords in its present form, and I stand by that today." Not that Ponsonby would be lost to politics. "It would enable me to stand for election to the Commons."

Elders and betters

ELDERFLOWER champagne may be just the tip of the iceberg. But while Monday's High Court judgment has delighted Thornicroft Vineyard, which is to be permitted to continue selling its soft drink under that name, it has received a mixed reaction from other



manufacturers. Richard Purdy, chairman of Merrydown (which also makes an elderflower "sparkling wine") reluctantly says that to maintain its competitiveness, Merrydown may have to follow suit.

Others, however, are less convinced. Babycham, still smarting from its defeat at the hands of the champagne houses in 1978, says it would not want to use the word anyway. "People know us as Babycham and we sell far more bottles in this country than champagne."

There is certainly a precedent for soft drinks calling themselves champagne. Colin Emmmins, former director of the British Soft Drinks Federation, says that in the 1890s one could buy "raspberry, strawberry, kola and even chocolate champagne—which sounds ghastly. The temperance move-

ment was very strong then. They thought people who were damned by drink could be saved by a non-alcoholic drink with an alcoholic name. It sounds like supping with the devil to me."

Health officials in the West Midlands are cashing in on the success of the new *Dracula* film. They have set up an advertising campaign for donors for the Birmingham blood transfusion service in the foyer of the UCI cinema at Merry Hill, under the banner "Don't be a Victim, be a Donor". Apart from the restorative cup of tea, new donors also receive a pair of free tickets for the vampire epic. Fangs very much, as they say in the Black Country.

Without further ado, Warren snatched the paper, marched it into the street, and jumped up and down on the flames. Returning to the restaurant with his hands above his head, he was given a round of applause. Alastair Goodlad, foreign office minister of state, bellowed: "Congratulations." Warren bowed, Dobbie blushed.

Light my Fire

PROOF POSITIVE that *The Times* is a newspaper you can never put down. Peter Dobbie, political editor of the *Mail on Sunday* was so engrossed in his copy yesterday at La Poule au Por restaurant in Victoria that he failed to notice it had caught light on a candle on the table. Silence fell over the restaurant, which was packed with MPs and reporters, as the flames crept up the paper. It was only when his guest, Kenneth Warren, the former chairman of the Commons trade and industry select committee, walked in that Dobbie realised that he had become the burning issue of the day.

Without further ado, Warren snatched the paper, marched it into the street, and jumped up and down on the flames. Returning to the restaurant with his hands above his head, he was given a round of applause. Alastair Goodlad, foreign office minister of state, bellowed: "Congratulations." Warren bowed, Dobbie blushed.

A rare glimpse of prime ministerial humour at the Conservatives' Winter Ball on Monday night. As John Major stood up to address the guests, including Norman Lamont, his eyes latched on to the pot-plants decorating every table.

OBITUARIES

THE MUFTI OF JERUSALEM

Saad a-Din el-Alami, Mufti of Jerusalem, died on February 6 aged 82. He was born in Jerusalem.

SAAD a-Din el-Alami was appointed by Jordan in 1953 as Mufti of Jerusalem, the senior Islamic clergyman in the holy city. From 1982 he was also head of the Higher Islamic Council, the body responsible for religious affairs of all Muslims in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

The el-Alami family roots go back to Morocco but its connections to Jerusalem began more than 800 years ago with the arrival of Hikari el-Alami in the Holy Land. He was a commander in the army of Salah-a-Din (Saladin, Richard the Lion Heart's great adversary) which came to expel the crusader infidel from the country in 1187. The Muslim warrior eventually settled in Jerusalem.

Saad a-Din el-Alami was born in East Jerusalem from where he went to the Al-Azhar University in Cairo to pursue Muslim studies. After gradu-

ating he returned to Jerusalem in 1932 and became a religious teacher at Al-Aksa.

In 1937, the year he became clerk to the Sharia religious court in Jerusalem, el-Alami married Asma, a daughter of the Nusselbah family, which was equally prestigious in the city. Soon after he was appointed a Kadi or court judge, first in Acre, then Tiberias and afterwards Nazareth.

In 1948 Nazareth was captured by the Haganah, the fledgling Jewish army fighting to establish the state of Israel, and el-Alami decided to move with his family to Jordan. He spent time in Irbid and Amman until 1951 when he was sent to be Kadi of the courts in Nablus and Ramallah on the West Bank, which at the time was still under Jordanian control. Two years later he was appointed Mufti of Jerusalem by the Jordanian Waft, which administered the extensive Muslim religious properties in the city and its environs.

Following the Six Day war of 1967, in which the Israelis took

control of East Jerusalem and the West Bank, Saad a-Din el-Alami played a role in the establishment of the Muslim High Council, which was linked to the Jordanian ministry of religious affairs in Amman and administered Muslim affairs in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. el-Alami was later appointed "Judge of Judges" (and as such the leading Muslim legal authority for the region), head of the Muslim Waft and, in 1982, head of the Muslim High Council which he had helped to found.

El-Alami's background made him a symbol of authority. He could sense the mood and needs of the Muslims and of the Palestinian man in the street. He was a moderate figure but one who stood up for what he believed in and did not care who was upset by it. This attitude was simply illustrated in a string of statements and fatwas, or religious declarations which the Mufti issued, particularly in his later years. In 1983 he lashed out at President Hafez Assad of Syria for encouraging

and participating in the bloody factional fighting among the Palestinians in Lebanon. "The Alawite murderer [Assad] is behind this slaughter and destruction," el-Alami said, declaring: "the Muslim who kills Assad will not only be a national hero but will also gain a place in paradise".

As the Gulf War between Iraq and the allies drew closer in 1991 the Mufti reflected Palestinian feeling when he travelled to Baghdad to participate in an Islamic conference organised by supporters of Iraq in the Muslim world. Earlier the Palestinian press in the West Bank had carried warm words of support for Saddam Hussein from the Mufti together with his call for the Iraqi ruler to "cleanse the Islamic lands and purify the Ka'aba" — a not so veiled call for an Iraqi conquest of Saudi Arabia where the city of Mecca houses the holy shrine.

El-Alami's relations with the Israeli authorities were correct — but often tense. The Mufti was particularly concerned that the Muslim and Arab

character of his city would be eroded by Israeli actions. Israelis were frequently angered by his declarations and the media interviews he gave when he travelled abroad. Several years ago interviews given by the Mufti charged the Israeli authorities with condoning the torture of Palestinians and said the Jews wanted to drive the Arabs out of Jerusalem and out of the country entirely. This prompted Jerusalem's mayor, Teddy Kollek, to dispatch a sharp letter to the Mufti calling on him to issue a formal denial. However, in spite of their political disagreements, their relations on municipal matters and on a personal level were good.

El-Alami's death marks a break in a chain spanning almost 500 years during which an el-Alami has been connected with Muslim religious affairs.

Saad a-Din el-Alami leaves his widow, four daughters and three sons — one a doctor in Jerusalem, the two others engineers in Oman and Morocco.

SIR ZACHRY BRIERLEY

Sir Zachry Brierley, CBE, chairman Z. Brierley Ltd, 1957-90, and a former Wales Area Conservative Council chairman, died on February 5 aged 72. He was born on April 16, 1920.

ZACHRY Brierley was a successful Llandudno businessman with broad horizons who vigorously dedicated himself to the causes he espoused and closely identified himself with them. Educated at Rydal School, Colwyn Bay, he joined the family firm, Z. Brierley Ltd (machine tools), in 1938. After serving in the RAF during the war, he rejoined the company and became chairman and managing director in 1957. He remained as managing director until 1973.

His experience, especially of small and medium-sized busi-

nesses, and his high personal standing brought him to the notice of the Welsh Office. He served on the Welsh Industrial Development Board, 1972-82 and on the Board of the Welsh Development Agency, 1975-86. He was one of the architects of Wales's modern industrial success.

He was a leading Conservative, both locally in the Conwy constituency and in Wales. He became Wales Area Conservative Council chairman 1982-86. He was appointed MBE in 1969, advanced to CBE in 1978 and knighted in 1987.

He will be remembered by his friends as an ever-youthful enthusiast with a keen sense of the practical, always prepared to tackle a problem with an engineer's ingenuity and inventiveness.

He leaves his widow, Iris, and their daughter.

WILLIAM YOUNGER, GC

William Younger, GC, one of the heroes of the Louisa Colliery disaster of 1947 in which 21 men were killed, died in Consett, Co Durham, on February 6 aged 83. He was born in South Moor, Co Durham, on March 24, 1909.

WILLIAM Younger was the last survivor of the four heroes of the underground rescue following a gas explosion at the Louisa Colliery, South Moor, Co Durham, in August 1947. He was also the last of the holders of the original Edward Medal in Silver (subsequently exchanged for the George Cross).

A complete disregard for his own safety and great powers of physical endurance were united in William Younger, as they needed to be on the night of August 22, 1947. He and two fellow pit deputies, Harry Robinson and Joseph Shanley, were all below ground in the Louisa's old section when, just before midnight, an explosion of fire-damp and coal dust tore through the seam. Of the 24 men who were working there at the time, 19 were killed almost immediately, either from the effects of blast and burns or from inhaling the fire-damp's lethal components: methane, nitrogen and carbon monoxide.

With their unrivalled knowledge of the mine's roadways and ventilating circuits, it would have been the easiest — as well as most tempting — option for the deputies to have made their own escape from a highly dangerous situation in which it seemed unlikely they could give any effective help. The inherent instability of the fire-damp made further explosions quite likely, while the damage to the galleries ren-



Younger, rear left, and colleagues bring out an injured man from the Louisa Colliery

dered roof falls a distinct possibility. But through choking dust, Younger and his colleagues made their way to the scene, climbing over and round the derailed tubs which littered their path. There they were joined by an overman, John Hutchinson, who had come down from the surface.

Working feverishly in an atmosphere which was so obscure that the beams of their helmet lamps carried little more than a foot, the four men remained down the mine for nearly two hours, moving the badly injured men from the scene of the explosion to a drift where the air conditions were less foul. They themselves continued working in fumes which were so deadly that a canary, lowered down the

mineshaft to ascertain the quality of the air, expired almost as soon as it got to the bottom. The deputies carried on until their exertions had enabled five of the two dozen casualties to be brought alive to the surface. Of these, two subsequently died in hospital. But certainly, without the efforts of Younger and his colleagues the three eventual survivors, too, would have perished.

All four men were awarded the Edward Medal in Silver for their bravery on that day. In 1971 the Edward Medal was revoked as a decoration and all holders were given the option of exchanging it for the George Cross. This Younger did, and his Edward Medal in Silver is now in the Beamish

Museum, Co Durham.

William Younger spent 46 years as a miner, after leaving elementary school at South Moor, where he grew up. He first went down the pit in 1923, subsequently becoming a deputy and retiring in 1969. He was for many years a member of the St John's Ambulance Brigade and held its long service medal with two bars. He received the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977. In retirement he lived quietly in his native county, to the end a delightfully self-deprecating man who embodied the staunchness and comradely qualities of the mining fraternity. He bore his final illness with great fortitude.

He was a widower, with two daughters.

TITI WACHTMEISTER

Countess Christina Wachtmeister, model and sometime companion to Peter Sellers and King Carl Gustaf of Sweden, died on January 21 of a brain haemorrhage aged 43. She was born on October 3, 1949.

COUNTRESS Christina "Titi" Wachtmeister, a top model in Sweden, London, was famous for the company she kept and for a string of high-profile boyfriends.

Titi is the traditional Swedish nickname for Christina. However, its unfortunate overtones caused problems for George Harrison when he tried to name his nightclub after her. Until 1970 the Mayfair club had been called Sibylla's after Sibylla Edmonstone, the Marshall Field heiress and a cousin of Camilla Parker Bowles. When Harrison rechristened it Titi's, the Crown Estates office objected to the "vulgar" name and demanded it be dropped. The club was eventually called Flicka.

The daughter of Count Wilhelm Wachtmeister, the Swedish ambassador in Washington, Titi divided her time between diplomatic parties and society balls before taking up modelling. With the looks of a blonde Jean Shrimpton, she was already a successful cover girl when

she came to London at the age of 21. She moved into a Chelsea flat with her sister, Anna, and was seen about town with an old school friend, Ben Eklund, brother of Brito.

Ben introduced the vivacious Titi to Peter Sellers, his former brother-in-law, who was then married to Lord Mancroft's daughter, Miranda. Despite the 24-year age difference, the two enjoyed a passionate three-year affair and, after Sellers's divorce came through, marriage seemed likely. But the relationship ended in a blaze of unpleasant publicity, with Sellers demanding the return of one of his gifts — a £2000 Cartier watch — and Titi anxious to recover family jewels and a favourite stuffed dog.

Gossips also predicted marriage with another escort, King Carl Gustaf of Sweden. But Titi ended speculation in 1977 when she married a Geneva-based corporate lawyer, Enrico Monfrini, who was himself the son of the Swiss ambassador to Rome. Their wedding in Washington attracted 150 jet-set partygoers from all over the world, including Gunter Sachs and Dai Lewellyn. The couple later separated.

A slightly plumper Titi re-emerged in 1987 to launch a line of high priced T-shirts which she called "T-T's".



JOHN HORRY

John Horry, MBE, first full-time secretary of the Squash Rackets Association and founding secretary of the International Squash Rackets Federation, died in Dorset on January 25 aged 87. He was born in Lincolnshire on March 30, 1905.

UNMARRIED, deeply conservative and, in some instances, abruply disciplinarian, John Horry was an unlikely figure to provide the bridge between the amateur and elitist squash rackets game of Britain's yesteryear and the flourishing worldwide open sport of today. Yet his was certainly the guiding hand that welcomed overseas players into the British game and set the organisation of international squash in motion.

When Horry was first retained as secretary of the Squash Rackets Association in 1955 there were 700 registered players and 350 affiliated clubs in Great Britain. Some 17 years later, when he retired from the SRA, the playing membership was close to 3,000 and the affiliation numbers had doubled.

By the time he stood down as secretary of the International Squash Rackets Federation in 1975, British playing figures were approaching three million, in some 3,000 clubs, and world statistics were building towards today's 15 million players in 122 nations. Across the span of 20 years, John Horry erected almost single-handedly the fabric of a sporting network that converted a hard but simple game, principally enjoyed by public schoolboys and military off-

icers, to a world-wide competitive enthusiasm for both sexes currently on the verge of Olympic recognition.

From a tiny office in Park Crescent, equipped with a battered typewriter, a creaking duplicator, an elderly addressograph and a single telephone, Horry administered a burgeoning domestic game and the two major tournaments of the era, the British Amateur Championship and the British Open Championship.

His working days invariably began at 6am, often extended to midnight and amounted to seven in most weeks. All for the most meagre of salaries. At his flat in Artillery Mansions, a bed, a meal and endless advice were dispensed

to young and overseas players on first visits to London. Rare is the dominant international squash player of that time who cannot include a John Horry anecdote in his memoirs.

The great Jonah Barrington might not have survived to become Britain's most successful player without occasional access to Horry's address book. The legendary Jahangir Khan might never have found his early introduction to the game had not Horry personally sponsored his penniless and shivering father, Roshan Khan, when he first ventured from Karachi equipped only with a £5 note, a pair of pillocks and a borrowed navy greatcoat. He was far from alone in such beneficent treatment from the man visiting

Americans fondly nicknamed "Mr Worry".

War-time service in the Royal Navy left Horry with a shoulder wound that inhibited his overarm tennis serve but little else. He had little time for the showcase professional sport that has developed so widely in recent years, but a huge enthusiasm for the players' game.

It was an increasing clamour for recognition from overseas that led him to organise the first meetings of the ISRF (now converted to the World Squash Federation). On his retirement in 1972 he was made an MBE for services to squash rackets. His *Story of Squash*, published in 1979, is generally regarded as a definitive history of the sport.

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TICES

P&P opts for direct sales as prices fall

Aberdeen Petroleum bids for Brabant

BY MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

the GCC, said complaints to his organisation had fallen 1 per cent in 1992 to 19,281. He said British Gas had become better at dealing with complaints, and that the rise recorded by Ofgas was a measure of its success and heightened public profile.

The effects of a regulatory regime in which each director generally exercises wide discretionary powers over a single industry are being questioned increasingly. The parliamentary trade and industry committee, in last month's report on the coal industry, called for the powers of regulators to be reviewed, with the aim of securing more government control over their work.

But Sir James said the use of a single regulator focused on the gas industry had served the customer well. Without the "tension and acrimony" that have sometimes characterised relations between Ofgas and the company, "we might not have the results we have achieved", he said.

Sir James's decision to step down this autumn will create an opportunity for ministers to recast the gas regulator's role should they so choose. Although Sir James's five-year contract does not expire until August next year, he is anxious that someone else should see through implementation of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's recommendations.

Fighting to the last: Sir James McKinnon, regulator of the gas industry

threshold of competition was lowered from 25,000 therms to 2,500 therms last August. rivals have seized up to 15 per cent of that sector too.

Tempus, page 23

POWERSCREEN International, the manufacturer of waste processing and crushing equipment, has sold Guzzler Manufacturing to Federal Signal Corporation for \$24 million. It has also sold a contingency payment of 10 per cent of accumulated turnover of \$84 million over the next three years. Powerscreen acquired Guzzler, based in Birmingham, Alabama, for \$9.2 million in August 1990. Guzzler makes truck-mounted power vacuum waste removal units.

Hunting sells business

HUNTING, the defence and aircraft equipment group, has sold its specialised protective coatings business, including the Hammerite metal coating branding, to Williams Holdings for £19 million. The disposal enables Hunting to reduce debt and to focus its resources on the defence, aviation and oil divisions. The consideration, payable in cash, is £10.4 million plus the net asset value of the businesses being sold on completion. This was stated at £8.5 million on December 31.

BAA, the British airports operator, is to acquire the cargo handling facilities of Federal Express Corp (Fedex) at Heathrow for about £5 million. BAA said that as part of the deal it has sold 5 per cent of its SkyCare Cargo subsidiary to Fedex in a step towards setting up a consortium at the airport. SkyCare will take over a number of Fedex contracts. The move follows Fedex's decision to transfer its UK express freight service to Stansted airport.

[illegible]

Portfolio

From your Portfolio Plus card check your eight share price movements on the right and add them up to give you your overall total. If it matches the figure on the right, you are correct. If it does not, check the daily dividend figures. If it matches the figure on the right, you are correct. If it does not, check the daily dividend figures. If it matches the figure on the right, you are correct. If it does not, check the daily dividend figures.

No.	Company	Group	Share	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Highland Park	Breweries	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
2	John Hill	Food	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
3	Woolworth	Food	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
4	Town Centre	Property	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
5	Hughes	Property	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
6	Paterson	Property	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
7	Glaxo	Pharmaceuticals	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
8	Johnson	Pharmaceuticals	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
9	Adair	Pharmaceuticals	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
10	Swire	Air	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
11	Dunelm	Textiles	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
12	Mandarin	Food	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
13	Wespac	Banking	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
14	Northumbria	Banking	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
15	Cable	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
16	Premier	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
17	P & P	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
18	Pico	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
19	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
20	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
21	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
22	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
23	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
24	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
25	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
26	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
27	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
28	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
29	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
30	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
31	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
32	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
33	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
34	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
35	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
36	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
37	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
38	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
39	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
40	Telecom	Telecommunications	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10

Please take into account any minus signs

11,000 MATCH THE SHARES

If you have ticked off your eight shares in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 53272 between 10.00am and 3.30pm (see the Sunday Times for full details)

Three winners equally share the Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000. Mrs M Matthews, South Cornwall; Mr D Coakley, Thirsk, North Yorks; Mr R Jeffery, Gaeley, Cheshire.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No.	Company	Share	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Barclays	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
2	HSBC	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
3	First National	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
4	Bank of Scotland	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
5	Bank of Ireland	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
6	Bank of Wales	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
7	Bank of England	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
8	Bank of America	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
9	Bank of France	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
10	Bank of Germany	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
11	Bank of Italy	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
12	Bank of Japan	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
13	Bank of Korea	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
14	Bank of China	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
15	Bank of India	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
16	Bank of Australia	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
17	Bank of New Zealand	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
18	Bank of South Africa	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
19	Bank of Argentina	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
20	Bank of Brazil	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
21	Bank of Mexico	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
22	Bank of Russia	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
23	Bank of Ukraine	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
24	Bank of Belarus	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
25	Bank of Kazakhstan	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
26	Bank of Kyrgyzstan	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
27	Bank of Tajikistan	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
28	Bank of Turkmenistan	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
29	Bank of Uzbekistan	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
30	Bank of Azerbaijan	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10

BREWERIES

No.	Company	Share	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Carlsberg	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
2	Heineken	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
3	Beck's	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
4	Adolf	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
5	Stout	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
6	Guinness	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
7	Black & White	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
8	Black & White	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
9	Black & White	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
10	Black & White	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
11	Black & White	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
12	Black & White	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
13	Black & White	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
14	Black & White	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
15	Black & White	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
16	Black & White	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
17	Black & White	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
18	Black & White	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
19	Black & White	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
20	Black & White	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10

BUILDING, ROADS

No.	Company	Share	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
2	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
3	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
4	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
5	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
6	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
7	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
8	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
9	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
10	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
11	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
12	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
13	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
14	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
15	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
16	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
17	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
18	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
19	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
20	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10

BUSINESS SERVICES

No.	Company	Share	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
2	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
3	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
4	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
5	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
6	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
7	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
8	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
9	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
10	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
11	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
12	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
13	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
14	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
15	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
16	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
17	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
18	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
19	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
20	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

No.	Company	Share	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
2	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
3	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
4	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
5	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
6	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
7	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
8	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
9	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
10	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
11	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
12	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
13	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
14	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
15	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
16	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
17	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
18	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
19	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
20	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10

DRAPERY, STORES

No.	Company	Share	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
2	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
3	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
4	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
5	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
6	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
7	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
8	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
9	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
10	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
11	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
12	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
13	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
14	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
15	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
16	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
17	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
18	Amey	100	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10</



OPERA page 30
Thomas Hampson: his fine Figaro steals the show in *The Barber of Seville* at Covent Garden

ARTS

MUSIC page 31
Witold Lutoslawski at 80: his magnificent new symphony shows him at the height of his powers



Education departments attached to arts institutions are flourishing, writes **Andy Lavender**

Not just a class matter

We may say that these are thin times for the arts in Britain. But one area, against all the odds, has expanded over the last few years: not least because of the imagination and hard work of its proponents. It is a hidden world, yet its impact may yet change your art-going habits and those of your children.

Against a backdrop of increasingly severe restrictions of funding, the education departments attached to arts institutions have gone from strength to strength. They are reaching wider numbers of people and gaining praise for the sophisticated ways in which they operate.

The approach is not to say, 'We've got something here which is good for you, and we are going to find ways to make you like it,' says Sue Robertson.

She set up the South Bank Centre's education department in 1986. 'It is much more about developing people's confidence and their critical faculties.' This summarises the code of all the education officers to whom I spoke. For the moment this is a tale of London companies, but there is now educational work attached to middle- and large-scale arts venues across the country.

There are of course pragmatic considerations: funding bodies such as the Arts Council are impressed at evidence of this kind of activity. But the awareness exists that deeper and less tangible riches have still to be tapped. It was a sign of the times, perhaps, when the Institute of Contemporary Arts, perceived by many as a shrine to the esoteric, appointed its first education officer just over a year ago. The incumbent, Kim Sweet, describes her role as one of 'opening up that elitism, making the work accessible'.

When Richard Eyre became director of the National Theatre he insisted on the importance of the educational aspect of the company's activities. His stated ambition of always having a show for young audiences in the repertoire has not yet been achieved, but progress has been consistent and the National has two such shows, *Rosie's Day After Tomorrow* (which opened last week) and Alan Ayckbourn's *Mr A's Amazing Maze* (opening on March 4), at the Cottesloe within a month.

Similarly, one of David Pountney's first moves on becoming director of productions at English National Opera was to appoint two staff directors to run the Baylis Programme (ENO's outreach work). This was so named in an attempt to avoid the seemingly pious term 'education' altogether.

The initiatives since developed by Pountney's lieutenants, Rebecca Melitis and David Sulkin, epitomise the new vistas of arts education. 'We look at areas where

we think opera hasn't had a real effect,' says Sulkin. 'We've worked with university students in Sussex, at the centre of a council estate in south-east London, and in the coalfields of Yorkshire. Our principal focus is on the child, adolescent or adult as a creative person themselves.'

This entails a range of approaches, from family days in the theatre to long-term projects in schools, where children might also write their own opera. For those especially committed, there are opera groups for both children and young people. Members of both are currently singing in the chorus in the revival of Pountney's successful production of *Carmen*.

All education departments know that if they can excite teachers, their effect is disseminated more rapidly. Hence the Baylis Programme runs workshops for teachers before engaging with the students themselves.

A project recently initiated explores the world and music of Janáček's *The Adventures of Mr Broucek*. Melitis scripted a more vernacular version for the children to prepare in workshop and perform. This sounds worthy, but how successful is this kind of initiative in reality?

Colin Lewis, one of the teachers involved, is head of creative arts at Pimlico School. 'Absolutely brilliant' is his cool assessment of the Baylis Programme's work. 'For a lot of children who just want to play house, music or ragga, here's their first experience of opera. When the Baylis Programme workshoped *Carmen* some years ago, they had kids who had never done any opera running around the hall singing all the big songs. It was terrific.'

Or, he points out, are these simply exercises in enjoyment.

'With Mr Broucek there is a lot of research work. We are talking about contemporary politics, what's happening in Czechoslovakia. It is real cross-curriculum work, because there is a wonderful opportunity to explore it with history teachers, geography teachers, art teachers. My colleagues are giving me stick because they cannot be involved enough.'

One of the most teacher-friendly schemes I encountered is Interact, operated by the National Theatre in association with W H Smith. 'The idea is that teachers have a hotline to the National,' explains the head of education at the National, Jenny Harris. 'They phone us up and say "You might think we need workshops on Stanislawski. Actually we don't. What we want is this..." At which point, resources permitting, the National dispatches the appropriate professional to any point in the country.'

This kind of contact - where the artists work directly with schoolchildren - will do as much to demystify the theatre profession



Illustration by Korky Paul for Mr A's Amazing Maze Plays, which are opening at the Cottesloe on March 4

as the National's more high-profile educational events, the tours of productions (complete with after-show workshops and discussions) and the Lloyds Bank Theatre Challenge, which hands over the National's stages to anything up to a dozen young companies.

Being older than 25 no longer guarantees that you are education-proof. A stone's throw from the National Theatre, the South Bank Centre claims to be involving

more people every year, including the most unlikely participants. A class of seniors, all over 55, are taking lessons on the gamelan (a collection of Far Eastern gongs and percussion instruments).

'Years ago I saw these instruments and thought they were beautiful,' says class member Jean Cardy. 'People tend to get hooked. You can play something at the end of two hours - but you can keep studying for the rest of your life.'

Consider this, along with developments elsewhere in the Centre (next door at the Hayward Gallery, for instance, a roster of artists lead popular talks and workshops addressing the current exhibition), and a picture emerges of multifarious experiences of the arts. The hand of the sponsor waves rather visibly at some of these events, but one can hardly cavil at the many and long-lasting benefits to the public which the sponsors' money makes possible.

ARTS BRIEFING

Verdi up for Auld Reekie

NO FEWER than 14 orchestras are lined up for the 1993 Edinburgh Festival (August 15 to September 4). There will also be a season of Verdi opera (confirming festival director Brian McMaster's stated intention to build up the operatic content), and concerts devoted to the music of the highly-rated young Scottish composer, James MacMillan.

Preliminary plans for 1993 also include productions by four top theatre directors: Robert Lepage, Peter Stein, Klaus Michael Gruber and Robert Wilson. The Mark Morris Dance Group returns to the festival, and another leading American dance company, the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, makes its festival debut. Despite a small drop in ticket sales last year, the 1992 festival achieved a £190,000 surplus, wiping out a £180,000 deficit accumulated over prior seasons.

THE Hackney Empire, where Charlie Chaplin learnt his craft and Marie Lloyd raised the rafters, will close unless up to £200,000 is raised by friends and actors. Roland Muldoon, the artistic director, described the financial crisis at the north-east London theatre as the result of 'a treble whammy'.

Hackney Council, which has always waived the Empire's rates bill, has decided to deduct the sum from the theatre's grant, according to Muldoon. The theatre has not been able to release an incentive grant from the Arts Council because it narrowly missed generating enough cash and a television deal with ITV, which plans to screen shows from the cult 291 Club held at the Empire, has been postponed.

Last chance...

SICKERT had a long and varied career as a painter. Friend and associate of the Impressionists, laureate of the English music-hall and the French Channel coast, father of the Camden Town School, he progressed before his death in 1942 to being one of the great precursors of Pop Art, using newspaper photographs and popular Victorian prints as material for his painting. The show at the Royal Academy (071-439 7438, finishing Sunday) marks the 50th anniversary of his death and covers the whole range of his works with admirable balance and discretion, one of the greatest of English painters at his best.

THEATRE: Reviews of two acclaimed productions which have transferred to the West End

Not usurped, replaced

When Simon Russell Beale succumbed to the Curse of Crookback - a slipped disc, a trapped nerve, or maybe a fallen hunch - the call went out from Royal Shakespeare Company headquarters for a temporary replacement. I did not see the job description, but presumably it went like this: 'Wanted, experienced Richard III for brief run at the Donmar Warehouse. Hump, withered arm and evil laugh optional, but must stand comparison with foul bunch-backed toads, bottled spiders, hedgehogs, dogs, hateful roiling hogs, bears, devils, fiends and Hell's evil intelligencers.'

That appeal has brought us Ciaran Hinds, who played the part at the Glasgow Citizens seven years ago and will be re-embodying it until Russell Beale returns, probably when Sam Mendes's production moves back to Stratford. The performances are fascinatingly different.

Russell Beale was as outrageous a bogeyman as I have seen, a tiny, scrubbed clown who looked like a depraved blend of Mr Punch, a neo-Nazi skinhead and A.A. Milne's Piglet. Where he scuttled, Hinds looms. A massive blend of Boris Karloff in his monster mode, a tree afflicted with Dutch elm disease, and a psychopathic mortician in search of trade.

Which is the better? Neither. Each uses his build and his looks to give a highly distinctive interpretation. Russell Beale's Richard is the more brilliantly original, but Hinds the more menacing and inner. He raises his voice little, know-



Ciaran Hinds as Richard: a psychopathic mortician

ing as he obviously does that it is more sinister when he levels it down from his usual gravelly purr into a sepulchral whisper. When he accuses Hastings of witchcraft, it is in a blend of sigh and creak; and the poor chap freezes, realising he is doomed long before Hinds seizes him by the neck and half-strangles him on the spot.

How this Richard could claim to have lost his 'alacrity of spirit and cheer of mind' beats me, because from the start he cuts a sour, grim figure, gripped by a power-lust that, whatever his successes, can never satisfy him. Suspicion, unease, fear are there throughout, as is something darker. How often do we feel that Richard's desperate attempt to marry his niece is a sin? Here, it is creepily, seazily incestu-

ous. How often do we believe that the ghosts he sees before Bosworth represent his own conscience? Far more than Russell Beale's gleeful goblin, Hinds's Richard convinces us that, in a sick, puzzled way, he feels guilt.

Mendes's rough-theatre production, fine as it still is, has not fully adjusted to Hinds's arrival. Its cartoon grotesqueries - Hastings's head in a brown-paper parcel with his place-name perched upon it - fit Beale's performance better. But if Hinds misses some of the demonic comedy, he emerges with more psychological plausibility. His Richard is a lugubrious serial killer, punishing the world for his own self-hatred: a performance worth catching.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Wintry smiles aplenty

After playing to capacity houses at the Almeida, Harold Pinter's absorbing, luminous play *No Man's Land* has transferred to the Comedy for a 12-week season, with its cast of four unchanged and Paul Eddington and Pinter himself in the leading roles of Spooner and Hirst.

A literary pedant, such as the minor poet Spooner appears to be, might object that nothing can be as absorbing and luminous at the same time. The lie is given to this by the elegant power of Pinter's language, the confident dramatic technique that keeps springing surprises, shifting the balance of power within the conflict or abruptly ending a scene with a black-out.

These basic arts of playwrighting, which in Pinter are raised to the nth degree, keep us intently absorbed in the doings of his mysterious characters as they prowl or strut around one another, casting light upon themselves but hardly dispelling their mystery. Only in Spooner's final speech did I sense that length was beginning to nibble away at my alertness to content.

Hirst, a man of literary eminence, has struck up a conversation with Spooner while wandering about on Hampstead Heath and has brought him back to his magisterial home. The room that Bob Crowley has designed is a funeral, with not a picture on its charcoal-grey walls; even the spines on the rows of books are forbiddingly black. It is comfortably furnished, and ranks of bottles are on parade in the drinks trolley, but the comfort is pitiless. The winter of Hirst's soul is in the room, the winter of no man's land 'which never moves, which

never changes', where the paralysis at the close echoes the seemingly casual opening exchange when Hirst, pouring whisky, asks 'As it is?' and Spooner replies 'As it is, yes please, absolutely as it is.'

To Spooner's hunched bearing, bird-like jerks of the head and air of patient supplication, Eddington adds the watchfulness of a man calculating when to pounce, when to keep silent, when to take advantage of his host's withdrawal of command. It is an exquisitely observed performance, marking the points of his cautiously mounting confidence with the decision to sit, to cross his legs, to venture his first contradiction, until he feels able to watch, unmoving, his drunken host crawl on all fours from the room.

The role of Hirst brings Pinter back to the London stage after 24 years, and his presence in the play gives David Leveaux's production an imprimatur. Pinter's thick-set figure and pugnacious jaw give Hirst the shape and semblance of power but in his bleak, dead stare, and the brittle liveliness of his reminiscences, we see the hollowness of the man's achievements, his weakening hold on life.

If this all sounds very sombre, the evening is also intensely funny, studded with tart wit and neat deflections.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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Passion beneath the polish

Witold Lutoslawski, just turned 80, has a new symphony for Los Angeles and a festival in Britain. Richard Morrison reports

Courteously but firmly, Witold Lutoslawski tries to dampen the sensationalist urge in every journalist. No, his music does not "mirror" the persecutions, denunciations and bans that have marked his life. "My First Symphony, for instance, I conceived it during the German occupation of Poland. Any day you could be taken to Auschwitz, or shot in the street. Yet it is a rather cheerful work! For me, the two worlds, musical and actual, don't overlap. The musical imagination is an ideal world, in which one is lucky enough to spend several hours every day, unconstrained by the terrible realities of life."

The trouble is, nobody believes him. Beneath the sumptuous surface brilliance of Lutoslawski's music run passions that only the cloth-eared or stony-hearted could miss. His new Fourth Symphony (see review, below) is charged with emotion. Can Lutoslawski expect that music like this will not be linked to his turbulent life under Nazi and Soviet masters?

He does expect it. Even Rostropovich is gently rebuffed for reading too much into the startling music-theatre of the 1970 Cello Concerto — written for him at a time when the great cellist was virtually a non-person inside the Soviet Union and when Lutoslawski himself had incurred Soviet wrath by condemning the invasion of Czechoslovakia.

"As Russians do, Rostropovich felt the need to attach extra-musical significance to the notes," recalls Lutoslawski. "He identified himself with the cello part, and then informed me that the trumpet which intrudes into his solo was 'the KGB'. And where the entire brass section bursts in, he said: 'That's the whole Central Committee!' I just laughed. It was never my intention to allude to politics."

Similarly, Lutoslawski denies that the functional, tonal music he wrote in the late 1940s (while secretly refining his avant-garde style) was composed under government pressure. "I wrote functional music, using folk songs, willingly and with pleasure. Remember that just after the war Polish life seemed ruined. So to compose something useful for schools, for amateurs, was a necessity. But when the Polish cultural minister told me to write something like Shostakovich's *Forest Song* — that terrible piece of kitsch! — I just said no. That was the minister who banned my First Symphony, saying that the man who wrote it should be thrown under a street-car."

Lutoslawski was 80 last month. His conversation sparkles; his tiny frame appears totally robust; his conducting remains vigorous; his creative impulse is undimmed. Last week, Los Angeles fêted him. Next



Witold Lutoslawski: out of the confusing clamour of competing styles in postwar composition, Lutoslawski has emerged as perhaps the most assured voice of them all

week, Manchester has an eight-day celebration, including a Hallé concert conducted by the composer.

Out of the confusing clamour of competing styles in postwar composition, Lutoslawski has emerged as perhaps the most assured voice of them all. What are his hallmarks? First, the variety and memorability of his themes. "I don't like music which develops from a single cell,"

Then, Lutoslawski deploys his themes like strong-willed characters dashing in a vivid piece of theatre. "Yes, large-scale music should have a plot, like a gripping novel or drama. The audience must be made curious: what happens next? This is not often the case with late 20th-century music."

That is putting it mildly. Finally there is Lutoslawski's sophisticated handling of the symphony orchestra ("an anachronism, a museum, but irreplaceable") and his equally unique manner of setting players free from the conductor's beat, while calculating exactly how the result will sound. "There's no improvisation in my music. I don't believe in it. Orchestral musicians are not equipped to compose."

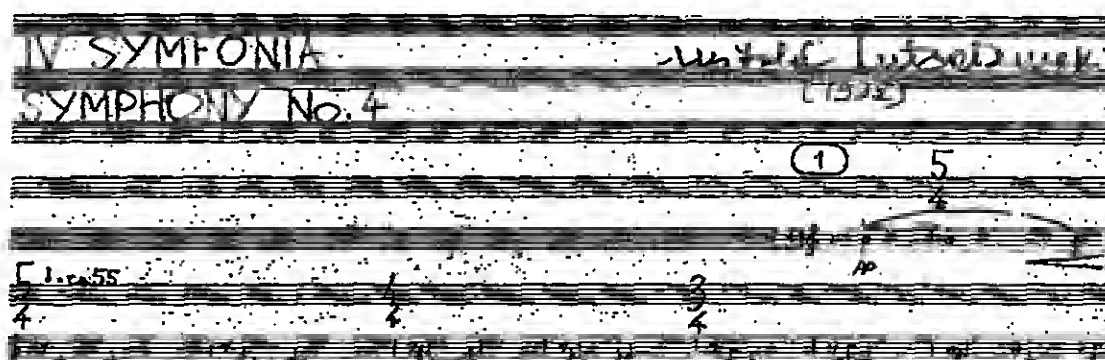
All this Lutoslawski worked out

alone, unaided (or unhindered) by fellow composers. "I realised early, after my First Symphony in 1948, that the language of this work promised nothing for the future. I began again from scratch. I said to myself: I know nothing; there's no model to follow; nothing that can possibly help me. So I started experimenting with sounds. I never thought out a doctrine. I discovered my own rules."

Nothing could have been further removed from the methods of the post-Schoenberg school in France and Germany, forced down the cul-de-sac of rigid serialism. Nor did Lutoslawski ever become too grand to change direction. Writing his Third Symphony, he spent two years on the main movement, then threw the whole thing away and started afresh.

Another great 20th-century original, Olivier Messiaen, exactly caught Lutoslawski's genius. "Most people as they grow old are merely confirmed in the traits of their youth; but Lutoslawski grows more and more modern." He hasn't finished yet.

● The Manchester festival, "Lutoslawski Live", opens on Friday with a concert at the Free Trade Hall. Details: 061-275 4982/4504



LUTOSLAWSKI'S new Fourth Symphony, commissioned by the Los Angeles Philharmonic and admirably premiered in Los Angeles last Friday under the composer's direction, is a magnificently taut work. It is in one movement, just half an hour long, yet it is loaded with incident, drama and compellingly beautiful sounds.

From the start Lutoslawski sets up a conflict. On the one hand is a haunting clarinet solo, sad and chromatic, striving to break free from a throbbing, funeral bass line. Later, that is transformed into a violin tune of melting lyricism, and later still into a strings-and-

brass unison as impassioned as anything Lutoslawski has ever written.

On the other hand are strident calls-to-arms. First comes a solo trumpet, breaking the elegiac mood of the opening. Then the whole orchestra is treated like a sonic battering-ram, with hammered chords punctuated by dramatic silences in the manner of Sibelius.

That conflict, however, is just one element in this fascinating score. The writing for woodwind ensemble is breathtaking: ten or 12 instruments simultaneously executing chromatic runs, like flames leaping from a furnace. And at the

symphony's centre, this kind of writing is superimposed on the string tune, to create a superbly rich texture.

But perhaps the most extraordinary part is the symphony's coda. Passion dies away, and three solo violins engage in an overlapping, echo-dialogue, as if Monteverdi had been reborn in 1993. The symphony, like the man who wrote it, has an immaculately polished surface: a microscopic concern with detail. That only serves to enhance the intensity of the emotional world that it gradually reveals. It receives its British premiere at the Proms on August 27.

Notes on eight decades

1913: Witold Lutoslawski was born in Warsaw on January 25.

1918: His father was executed by the Russians near Moscow for Polish nationalist activities.

1932: Enters Warsaw Conservatoire. Throughout the 1930s he gains recognition in Poland as a composer.

1939: Abandoning plan to study in Paris, joins Polish Army. Captured by Germans, escapes, makes way back to Warsaw. Survives war playing piano duets in cafés with fellow composer Andrzej Panufnik. His brother executed in concentration camp. Much of his music destroyed when German razed Warsaw after 1944 Polish Uprising.

1949: First Symphony, planned secretly during the war, premiered and instantly banned for "formalism". Lutoslawski privately continues to experiment with avant-garde music, while producing more traditional "functional" music for public consumption, such as the immediately popular Concerto for Orchestra.

1955: Cultural thaw after Stalin's death allows an annual new music festival in Warsaw. Lutoslawski's "new style" heard for first time in works such as *Musique funèbre*.

1957: Delivers speech to Polish Composers Union denouncing socialist realism in the arts.

1964-8: A series of masterpieces — the String Quartet, Second Symphony and *Live pour orchestre* — establish his international reputation. The series continues into the 1970s with the remarkable Cello Concerto.

1981: Aligns himself with Solidarity, and makes outspoken speech at Polish Congress of Culture, on "The Role of Truth in Art". Declared persona non grata by Soviet Union. Martial law imposed in Poland a few days later.

1983: Third Symphony premiered by Solti in Chicago and widely interpreted (though not by Lutoslawski) as a Beethoven-like call to freedom. Receives hundreds of performances round world, and fellow Poles award it the Solidarity Prize.

1989: Serves on committee of 100 intellectuals that supervised Poland's first democratic elections.

RADIO REVIEW: A moving and imaginative portrait of Shakespeare; and a glimpse of life with Napoleon

There has been a lot of discussion lately about what Shakespeare was really like; and David Pownall made an excellent contribution in his Sunday Play on Radio 3, *Dreams and Censorship*. It is the year 1610, and seven learned divines have just completed their translation of the Bible for King James. But Shakespeare, who is a trusted friend of the king's, has urged him not to allow the inclusion of the Book of Revelation. Is the great playwright just jealous of the translators' achievement? That is what they all think.

Anyway, the king (very well played in a razor-edged but dainty Scottish voice by Hugh Ross) comes to Oxford to see them. He is a splendid characterisation by Pownall — crafty, crusty, and yet thoughtful and open to ideas. He ticks off one of the divines for smoking — "No more devilish

Bard brought to book

furnish while on sacred business" — and tells them that he will not have in his Bible a book that will give comfort to seditious madmen. The queen, who is rather a feminist, adds that in any case they must change "Whore of Babylon" to "Whoremaster of Babylon" — it is not fair on women.

Little by little we learn Shakespeare's real motives. What he sees looming is a new age of intolerance. For him, St John's dream on Patmos is God's dream of vengeance on men, and one that men will all too readily imitate. "There will be a church where the theatre was, a block where the throne was."

Of course, as we know, he fails in his attempt to hold

back the Puritan tide. Pownall's rich imagination gives a good, half-comic gloss to this. The divines have written a celebratory masque about St John that will be performed in Oxford that very evening — and the king wants to see it. They are terrified, because the St John in it (a powerful performance by Robert Stephens) is a really fiery denouncer of earthly thrones.

But to everyone's surprise the king loves the masque. He chortles at the painted animals ("The beasts were good"), is moved to tears by the crucifixion of a Vestal Virgin (not knowing that it is his precocious son Charlie who is playing the part), and as for

the theological argument in it, that is greatly to his taste. He tells Shakespeare "You could learn a lot from this piece, Willy," and lets the divines have their way over the Book of Revelation.

Only Shakespeare is sad and solemn at the end of Pownall's play. He writes *The Tempest* as his farewell to the theatre — and who does he find sitting on the stage on the first night by order of the king but the seven divines. It is like the last omen; and this brilliant, balanced, tolerant man, as Pownall portrays him (and Edward Petherbridge convincingly performs him), retires to Stratford and silence. Now, for England, what must come must come.

We leapt on 200 years in the

last Miles Kingston interview (Radio 4, Tuesday), when the ghost of Empress Josephine (Jane Lapotaire) told him what life was like with Napoleon. There were some good, planning jokes, such as Josephine's conviction that the British would really have liked Napoleon to be British, rather than having to put up with that "dusty old general", Wellington. But on the whole she was allowed to speak quite seriously and sympathetically, smarting still at the hostility all Napoleon's Corsican family showed her ("like Lady Diana", or remembering the best times she had with Napoleon as their moments alone in Malmaison together. Kingston has revealed an unfamiliar, teachy side of himself in these "interviews". But don't go too far in that direction, Miles.

DERWENT MAY

ROCK: David Sinclair reviews a London concert by Stereo MCs, 'the first viable English rap act'



Rob Birch: a classless but distinctly English voice

Shaking off the American accent

Having unstaged the ailing Happy Mondays on their tour last year, Stereo MCs are now getting a taste of what it is like to be in the headline slot themselves. The group have been hot news since their third album, *Connected*, shot into the chart at No 2 last month, which may be why vocalist Rob Birch was so taken aback by the response to their show at the Town & Country. "Why are you so quiet?" he asked the audience, rather plaintively, towards the end.

Stereo MCs are, in essence, the first viable English rap act. They claim a grand array of influences and, by implication, suggest a broad significance in

what they do. But their trick has been relatively simple. Taking the beatbox-funk rhythms of the American rap model, but leaving out the violent imagery and bad language, they have added a hint of melody and given it a British dancefloor feel. Add the near classless but distinctly English speaking voice of Birch, and *voilà*: a chart- and club-friendly hybrid that picks up where the rave-influenced Manchester groups, such as Happy Mondays, tailed off.

Their show was lively enough to watch. The fair-haired and bearded Birch, dressed in one of those sleeveless, flapping jackets that are all the rage among a better

class of window cleaner, jumped about the stage in a curiously anthropoid fashion. Nick Hallam, the bald DJ, remained static behind his turntables, while the three female backing vocalists paid as much attention to their shimmy and frug dance steps as they did to their singing; possibly more. The vast lighting gantries were deployed with retina-distressing aggression.

The only musical instrument on stage was Owen IP's drum kit, and musically the emphasis was on his propulsive rhythmic thrust, bolstered by the ultra-heavy bass frequencies generated by Hallam's decks. At a level loud

enough to set any fashionably flared trouser legs flapping, they barrelled their way through "Playing With Fire", "Step It Up", "Pressure" and several others from the *Connected* album, while the crowd bounced about contentedly on the packed dancefloor.

The relatively mute response of which Birch eventually complained may have been due, in part, to the indistinct presence of his voice in the mix. While the more obvious slogans cut through, most of his words were lost. Or it might simply reflect the fact that music like this is great to dance to but not a lot of good for anything else. Perhaps the crowd was simply too pooped to applaud.

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ELLS

ME: Britain's fittest and strongest may be most vulnerable to condition dubbed 'yuppie flu'

Athletes left fit to drop by spreading virus



Adrian Holloway on the illness that has left some outstanding sporting careers in ruins

When the footballer, Steve Hodge, disclosed last month that he has myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), he provided further evidence for a growing lobby which claims that the disease is a particular threat to top sporting competitors because strenuous exercise can weaken the immune system.

Hodge, who appeared briefly as a substitute for Leeds United against Manchester United on Monday night, won 24 England caps with his energetic running, but he may have paid a high price for the level of fitness he achieved. He is one of at least a dozen British sportsmen known to have caught ME in the past five years.

There is considerable medical controversy about ME, which is sometimes called post-viral fatigue syndrome or chronic fatigue syndrome. Many doctors feel that patients are complaining of physical symptoms found in many cases of depressive illness, including those that may have been precipitated by viral infection or stress and strain in a hyper-conscientious character who is striving to maintain his or her high standards.

The controversy will continue, but Hodge has no doubts that he is suffering from a specific illness that is triggered by viral infection and especially affects those under physical and mental stress. ME was known as "yuppie flu" in the late Eighties because of the initial feelings of lethargy experienced by the sufferer. Exercise-induced fatigue usually follows and eventually affects the brain, prompting some to think they are going insane before it is diagnosed.

In September 1987, Hodge realised that something was wrong when playing for Tottenham Hotspur against Queens Park Rangers. David Bardsley pushed the ball past him, but Hodge thought it was still at his feet. Hodge complained at half-time that his concentration had been affected and asked to be substituted. Yet he played on for five years, before his ME was confirmed a few weeks ago.

A cross-country champion as a teenager, Hodge broke into the England side at the 1986 World Cup aged 23. Dr Charles Shepherd, medical adviser to the ME Association, believes he was particularly at risk. "Hodge's intense, non-stop performances over 90-minute sessions would make him more susceptible to catching ME than other players," he said.

Research conducted at Oxford University has highlighted the paradox faced by the fittest. Professor Eric Newsholme's work suggests that strenuous exercise reduces blood glutamine, which is processed in the muscle, to 80 per cent of its normal level. This means that the T-cells which comprise a vital part of the immune system do not function properly, increasing susceptibility to the viruses that cause ME.

Hodge's troubles began when he over-exerted himself by going straight into a full season with Tottenham after returning from Mexico. Dr Shepherd said: "Hodge is conscientious and like most people who get ME he made the mistake of plodding on when he wasn't feeling well. The stress involved would have been an important co-factor in his illness."

With no cuts or broken bones, Tottenham concluded that Hodge was homesick and sold him back to Nottingham Forest, his first club. Brian Clough's preference for light training methods suited Hodge perfectly, but it was during his second spell at the City Ground that the disease began to affect him mentally.

His speech became slurred and he soon dreaded post-match interviews because they might expose his condition. Hodge went to great lengths to avoid autograph hunters in case he spelt his name wrong.

"Hodge's mental symptoms are classic," Dr Shepherd said. "Even professional people with ME have terrible trouble with writing. It's all to do with what we call organic brain dysfunction."

The illness reached a peak on England's tour of Australia in 1991, when Hodge feared he was going mad. He was unable to communicate properly and returned home without appearing in a game. He moved to Leeds before the start of last season.

Considered a hypochondriac by some in Nottingham, Hodge took to wearing a disguise of dark glasses and a hat when visiting local libraries to search through medical books. It was on one of these visits, eight weeks ago, that he found a book on ME that seemed to describe his problem exactly.

He immediately saw a specialist in Leeds, who said he had been suffering from a mild form of the disease for five years and that his condition was improving.

Less fortunate footballers who have been forced into retirement by the disease include Billy Garton, of



Let off lightly: Provan, the former football player who has recovered to lead a "fairly normal" life, plays with his daughter, Kelley



Sporting the scars: Gladwin, Francis, Hodge and Marti have been affected to varying degrees by an illness that has divided medical opinion

whom great things were expected at Manchester United, and David Provan, of Celtic and Scotland.

Provan was 29 when he trained through a bout of gastric flu in July 1985. "I lost some weight, but carried on until one day when we were playing Rangers at Ibrox," he said. "I was taking a corner and couldn't focus on the ball. It felt like I had lead boots on."

Constantly exhausted, the winger once overslept and failed to turn up for a match. By January 1986, when he played his last game, Provan was regularly sleeping 19 hours a day.

Provan now runs a hotel business and leads a fairly normal life. He said: "I'm 60 per cent recovered. I still have memory lapses and sometimes get my words mixed up. I reckon I missed three years

at the top and two in the lower divisions, but when I look at some people who've got ME I think I've got off lightly."

Another sportsman to be beaten by ME is John Gladwin, part of the missing generation of British middle-distance runners. Heir apparent to Cram, Coe and Overt, Gladwin won a silver medal in the 1,500 metres at the 1986 Commonwealth Games

in Edinburgh. He was expected to lead the challenge at the Seoul Olympics.

Then, in January 1988, he woke one morning feeling tired. Instead of running his usual five miles before lunch in the evening to compensate. It was the start of a descent that within six months was to reduce him to despair.

"One day I'd feel brilliant, the next two I'd be flat on my

back," he said. Shopping soon became a considerable task. His memory failing and social life disintegrating, Gladwin considered suicide.

Days spent in front of the television at least served to identify his illness. Gladwin saw Clare Francis, the yachtswoman, describe her condition and he immediately contacted the ME Association. By August, Gladwin was recovering, and after a

rest period began the first of a number of comeback attempts. At the age of 29 he feels he can no longer run the risk of returning to competition. "I keep breaking down," he said, "so I ask myself whether it's worth it. I've got to pay my mortgage and I've just set up my own business. It's very sad because I know there's no one in Britain at the moment who could beat me. It's the 80-mile-a-week training slog that did for me. I overcooked."

Jon Ridgeon, the hurdler, is another athlete who overcooked, but unlike Gladwin, he made a complete recovery, and last year came second in the 400 metres hurdles at the World Cup. Ridgeon and Debbie Marti, Britain's No. 1 high jumper who fought ME for five years, hold out a beacon of hope that the disease can be overcome, although the ME Association says only 20 per cent of sufferers shake it off. The most notable success was Andrew Oldcorn, the golfer who briefly led the Open in 1990, two years after experiencing complete debilitation.

Dr Shepherd said that there is no known cure for ME. "Lifestyle management is probably the most important factor in treating the disease," he said. "The best thing for it is rest and convalescence."

Ridgeon made a complete recovery just four months after catching the disease in May 1988. His was a textbook case: a Cambridge undergraduate and a leading medal hope for the 110 metres hurdles at Seoul, Ridgeon caught the Cocksackie B virus, one of the enteroviruses associated with ME, after pushing his body and mind hard at examination time.

Ridgeon said: "I was too tired to do anything, so I devised a survival plan. I wouldn't dare warm up for races, I just touched my toes and set off."

Ridgeon continued to compete at well below his normal level and came fifth in the Olympic final. With the help of an elaborate homeopathic medicine programme he recovered within months.

Like Ridgeon, Marti battled through ME. She kept her place in the British team while she struggled with the disease between 1985 and 1990 by feats of self-discipline. "I've had to sacrifice many things," she said.

Two years ago, Marti, now 24, felt much better after a winter break, and last year reached the Olympic final at Barcelona, but she has been hardened by her long fight. "I get really cross with people who say they've got ME just because they catch a cold," she said. "They don't know the half of it."

RUGBY UNION

Pilgrim ban reopens old wounds

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE two rugby codes, union and league, are going through one of their periodic bouts of infighting as a consequence of Steve Pilgrim's disqualification from rugby union. It is an opportunity for moralising, which neither code is slow to grasp, though whether it should occupy parliamentary time, as some rugby league protagonists think, seems debatable in the extreme.

The crux of the matter is

whether any organisation has the right to lay down rules concerning its own governance. Since it does (otherwise there would be even greater chaos than there is), it behoves those who become involved with the organisation to be aware of the rules and the consequences involved in their breach.

Pilgrim, the Wasps full back who played for England B in 1989, played in a rugby league trial match contrary to rules laid down by the International Rugby Football Board — not the Rugby Football Union (RFU), which had no choice in the matter of a penalty — and thus disqualified himself from rugby union for a year. Whether this constitutes a "constraint of human freedom", as the Rugby Football League has claimed, seems doubtful.

It is, though, unwise for rugby union officials to dismiss the subsequent furore as just another case of rugby league seeking publicity for a sport which, in nearly 100 years, has failed to establish itself in more than a handful of countries.

The concept of amateurism central to rugby union has been so strained, particularly during the past three years, that the application of a rule to a player who has received no money for appearing in a rugby league trial is difficult to justify in public terms.

"We probably supply more players to rugby league than any union in the world," Dudley Wood, the RFU secretary, said yesterday. "If Steve Pilgrim, or anyone else,

chooses to take that road, good luck to them. But we are constantly approached by former rugby league players wanting to come back."

"Amateurism is vital to the nature of rugby union as it is. That's not to say that at some future date it won't change. But this regulation has been in force for some years now and if we receive proof of any abuse of it, then we will act immediately — as we would over any breach of the amateur regulations."

An early day motion on the Steve Pilgrim affair was signed yesterday by 19 MPs (Christopher Irvine writes).

David Hinchcliffe, MP, the secretary of the 70-strong par-

liamentary rugby league group, is to press Gerald Kaufman, the chairman of the Commons national heritage select committee, for an enquiry into whether public subsidies received by the RFU through government departments, the Sports Council and the Foundation for Sports and the Arts should continue in the light of what Hinchcliffe said was "blatant discrimination".

Doug Laughton, the Leeds coach, has yet to make up his mind about Pilgrim's possible progress into league, but said he thought the player had an irrefutable legal case for constraint of freedom in the European Court of Human Rights.

Andrew's kicking skills sway Wasps selectors

ROB Andrew, the England stand-off half, will make his first league appearance for Wasps for nearly 15 months when he plays against London Irish at Sudbury on Saturday (David Hands writes). His presence in the team was assured only by the disqualification of Steve Pilgrim.

Andrew has not played a competitive game for Wasps since his unexpectedly early return from Toulouse in October, because of the enforced re-eligibility period. Though he played divisional rugby in December, the break has not helped his international form. He gains a place, however, at the expense of Adrian Thompson, whose tactical

play has helped Wasps to the leadership of the first division. The deciding factor for the club selectors was Andrew's goal-kicking ability now that last season's leading points scorer, Pilgrim, is ruled out by his appearance in a rugby league trial game.

"We might well, in morale terms, loyalty to the team and general attitude, have played Thompson but the decision was taken away by Pilgrim's disqualification," John Gasson, the club spokesman, said. "Without him we have lost our front-line goal-kicker. Adrian has been spoken to by the captain and coaches and is aware of all the implications."

McEvoy to pay price for punch-up

By RICHARD EATON

MALCOLM McEvoy is likely to miss Warrington's table tennis rematch with Vyzura, of Cheshire, after receiving a three-month suspension for his part in a punch-up during the original fixture in November.

McEvoy and Neil Gravenor, who was censured by the English Table Tennis Association, came to blows after only ten minutes of their match in the second division (north) at Runcorn. There is a history of bad blood between the two clubs, who play in the Liverpool league.

McEvoy and Gravenor began verbal sparring almost from the start of the game. Gravenor decided not to complete the contest, shook hands with the umpire and told his opponent he could have the match. McEvoy thought little of that and the ill-feeling boiled over, with the pair having to be separated by team-mates.

The incident was unfortunate for the British League, not just because of table tennis's increasingly up-market image. The sequence of events will hardly have delighted the league's sponsor, Friendly Hotels.

Officials hope that with the matter resolved, the sport's cheerful image will be restored at the rematch, which will be arranged soon.

ATHLETICS

Germany wants to reduce drugs ban

By JOHN GOODBODY

GERMANY is proposing that the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) reduces its four-year mandatory drugs ban for taking anabolic steroids because of fears that courts will rule the suspension is too long.

The German Athletic Federation (DLV) is already under the threat of Katrin Krabbe, the world 100 and 200 metres champion, taking her four-year suspension to German civil law if she is dissatisfied by the decision of the DLV legal arbitration commission, which is expected to meet within the next six weeks.

Jan Kern, the DLV general secretary, said yesterday that it would propose at the IAAF meeting before the world championships in Stuttgart in August that suspensions for taking hormone drugs should be more flexible, ranging from

one to four years, depending on the case. "Under German civil law, a four-year ban is too long for someone carrying out their profession," he said.

The IAAF increased its minimum ban for taking hormone drugs from two to four years in 1991.

Kern added: "It is possible that athletes will take cases to court again and again and we would be going from court case to court case. That would not be very good for federations. Sports rules need to match normal laws."

The threat of legal action by Krabbe has always been in the background to her two battles with the DLV against doping suspensions in the last year. Last year, Krabbe and two other former East German athletes, Grit Breuer and Silke Möller, successfully appealed against a four-year suspension for allegedly manipulating urine samples because of a legal technicality. The DLV had not written drugs-testing regulations into its regulations.

Krabbe, Breuer and Manuela Dietz plan to use the same reason when they appeal against another four-year ban following a test last July for clenbuterol, which is both a stimulant and an anabolic agent in animals.

Two German Olympic champions, Dieter Baumann and Heide Henkel, have decided against joining a proposed boycott of events in the world championships later this year. (Reuters)



Krabbe: may go to law

Buder's gold surprise

Karin Buder, of Austria, surprised herself by winning gold in the women's slalom, her first important title, at the world skiing championships in Morioka, Japan, yesterday. Julie Parisien, from the United States, collected silver while another Austrian, Elfi Eder, was third.

Bad weather suspended Kjetil Andre Aamodt's golden aspirations when the second leg of the men's giant slalom was postponed because of gale-force winds and snow. The Norwegian led after the first leg by 0.45sec. The leg will be held today.

Boone dominant
Rockets Willie Boone, the former world champion, won the United States amateur championship, beating John Prenz, his old rival, 3-2. Prenz, also a former world champion, started strongly but Boone fought back, remaining consistent on the lively New York court. Although Prenz levelled at 2-2, Boone hung on to win.

Foreman postpones
Boxing: George Foreman, the former world heavyweight champion, has asked for his bout against Tommy Morrison to be postponed. The match, set for April 16, will probably be held in mid-May.

Safe haven
Yachting: Bernard Gallay, in Vuarinet Watches, was towed into Port Chalmers, New Zealand, yesterday, the second competitor in the Globe Challenge race to shelter there.

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CHANNEL 4

5.50 *Seaside Street*. Early-learning series (6514671) (f)
 4.45 *Split and Hercules*. Cartoon about a dog and cat (r) (9458565)
 7.00 *The Big Breakfast*. Daily magazine show (16681)
 8.40 *The Big Bang*. Year 5 American comedy game show (s) (90251)
 9.30 *Schools* (903671)
 12.00 *The Parliament Programme* presented by Anne Parlos (95045)
 12.30 *Seaside Street*. Today's guest is the basketball player John Thomas (65555) 1.30 *Life On Fun* for children (s) (43300)
 2.00 *Life On Fun*. Interviewed Sergeant (1943, 3y), Second world war. A female starmer (1943, 3y) as a young corporal who is forced to take command of a patrol in Africa. With Maureen O'Hara. Directed by John Stahl (903294)
 4.30 *The Three Stooges in Three Little Words* (b/w) (937337)
 4.00 *Birdscape*. In the last programme of the series, Bruce Pearson studies the barn owl of Norfolk (v). (Teletext) (942)
 4.30 *Country Road*. Words and pictures (s) (1651316)
 5.05 *The Wednesday Weepie*. A real-life love story (1787229)
 5.15 *Film: My Boyfriend's Back* (1986). Comedy about a stoles group who are reunited for a television show. Starring Sandy Duncan and Jill Eikenberry. Directed by Paul Schneider (s) (9422230)
 5.50 *News at 5.15* with John Snow. (Teletext) Weatext (424300)
 7.50 *Party Politics*. Words and a Liberal Democrat (455710)
 9.50 *Brooklyn*. Movie. A love story. (Teletext) (s) (8328)



Fruitful approach: calorie-watcher Amanda Ursell (8.30p)

● **CHOICE:** The BBC's *Food and Drink* would seem to make another food programme superfluous, yet *Food File* tends to reach the corners that the other show does not reach. For one thing it is more health conscious. While the Beeb's Michael Barry trades in the crumbly chocolate cake he never been in the kitchen, *Food File* watches the calories. Indeed it links food and health directly, as in tonight's item on how diet can alleviate migraine. Elsewhere the emphasis is on the practical, with a regular slot on sample meals that can be prepared in a pot. Tonight it is couscous, demonstrated by a chef who runs a restaurant in London. There is also a report on the safety of fast food. But the show's cautious approach is not shared by Michael Caine, Barry Norman and Lord Hestley talk about their favourite cook books. (repeated) (c) (1981)

9.00 Dispatches. The current affairs programme reports from the streets of Bangkok and Pattaya on the proliferation of child prostitution, and the threat of Aids in Thailand (810756)

9.45 Snapshot: Malcolm Bradbury
● **CHOICE:** The novelist and academic rounds off another excellent series of short films by returning to family roots in Macclesfield. The visit gains poignancy by being his first to the area for nearly 50 years. Bradbury was brought up in London, but as a boy during the

second world war he was sent to Macclesfield during the school holidays. He stayed with his grandparents, stern Victorians who believed in chapel and the temperance society and made the young man sign the pledge. He says he found them frightening and rebelled against their principles but concedes that the experience helped him as a writer. Bradbury widens his scope to reflect on four generations of family history and hints that one day he will write

10.00 The Golden Girls. Dorothy appears in court. (Teletext) (s) (90774)
10.30 Nightingales: Someone to Watch Over Me. The final episode of Paul Makin's off-beat comedy series starring Robert Lindsay, David Threlfall and James Ellis as night security watchmen (559958)

11:05 **Love Weekend: Nights.** The first of a five-part drama by Sarah Ann Kennedy, combining live action with animation, charting the course of true love. In *First Night*, Carol recalls her night of passion with new boyfriend Bob. With Lesley Sharp and Nick Hancock. (s) (385590)

11:20 **Damned in the USA.** A controversial documentary about artists and censorship in the United States (s) (298045)

12:45am **Elvis: Paradise (1991).** A violent love drama, with Eric Roberts

subtitles, about latter-day Robin Hoods. Starring Dharmendra and Vinod Khanna. Directed by Anil Sharma (60005701). Ends at 4:15.


85-478] 2.00 Shooting
0750-101 4.20 Football[illegible]

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England's middle-order batsman ready for test of nerve against India

Hick warms to Madras task

FROM PETER BALL
IN MADRAS

IF THE second Test match here tomorrow is an important one for England, it is doubly significant for Graeme Hick. If he can shake off the after-effects of ill health, he could mark the moment when Hick, who has made only 333 runs in his first 12 Test matches, finally breaks through at this level.

Hick has been victim of the virus that has hit the England party but yesterday afternoon joined the rest of the team for nets in the sweltering heat of the Chepauk stadium. The likelihood is that he will be fit and that England, for the first time on the tour, will have their full complement of players available. The main doubt was removed when Phillip DeFreitas recovered from his stomach trouble.

Any prediction that Hick will finally succeed must be tentative. He has consistently struggled to reproduce his prolific county form in Tests, and last summer there were times when he seemed to have been picked for his fielding. In

Bill Athey, 35, the former England batsman, has been offered a three-year contract by Sussex, subject to the approval of the Test and County Cricket Board. Athey began his career with Yorkshire before moving to Gloucestershire.

the first Test in Calcutta, where he scored one and 25, he produced another reason for his selection, taking five for 28 in the match with his off spin. More important, there were signs that the Worcestershire player is beginning to come to terms with the pressures of Test cricket, which seemed to have undermined him more than any technical failings against pace or spin.

"You are never going to escape from pressure, it's always going to be there when you are playing for England," he said, "but I've never stopped enjoying my cricket."

Although he is still waiting for a big innings, he looked more at ease in his second attempt in Calcutta, and he played shots with the certainty he shows for his county. His bowling has given him added confidence, and possibly another string to his bow, although Graham Gooch, the

England captain, rejected any idea that Hick might be picked for his bowling.

"His bowling could develop a lot more," Gooch said. "I don't see him being used a lot at Worcester, which doesn't help. If he bowled regularly it would do a lot of good. He needs to do well with the bat, but if his bowling comes on, he'll be a useful all-rounder."

Giving batting priority is one that Hick welcomes. "I'm a batsman and I'm going to be judged on my batting," he said, "but doing well as a bowler helps me feel that I've made a contribution." That is important for Hick. An apparently straightforward character, he is more insecure and introverted than is usual in tall, powerfully built southern African sportsmen.

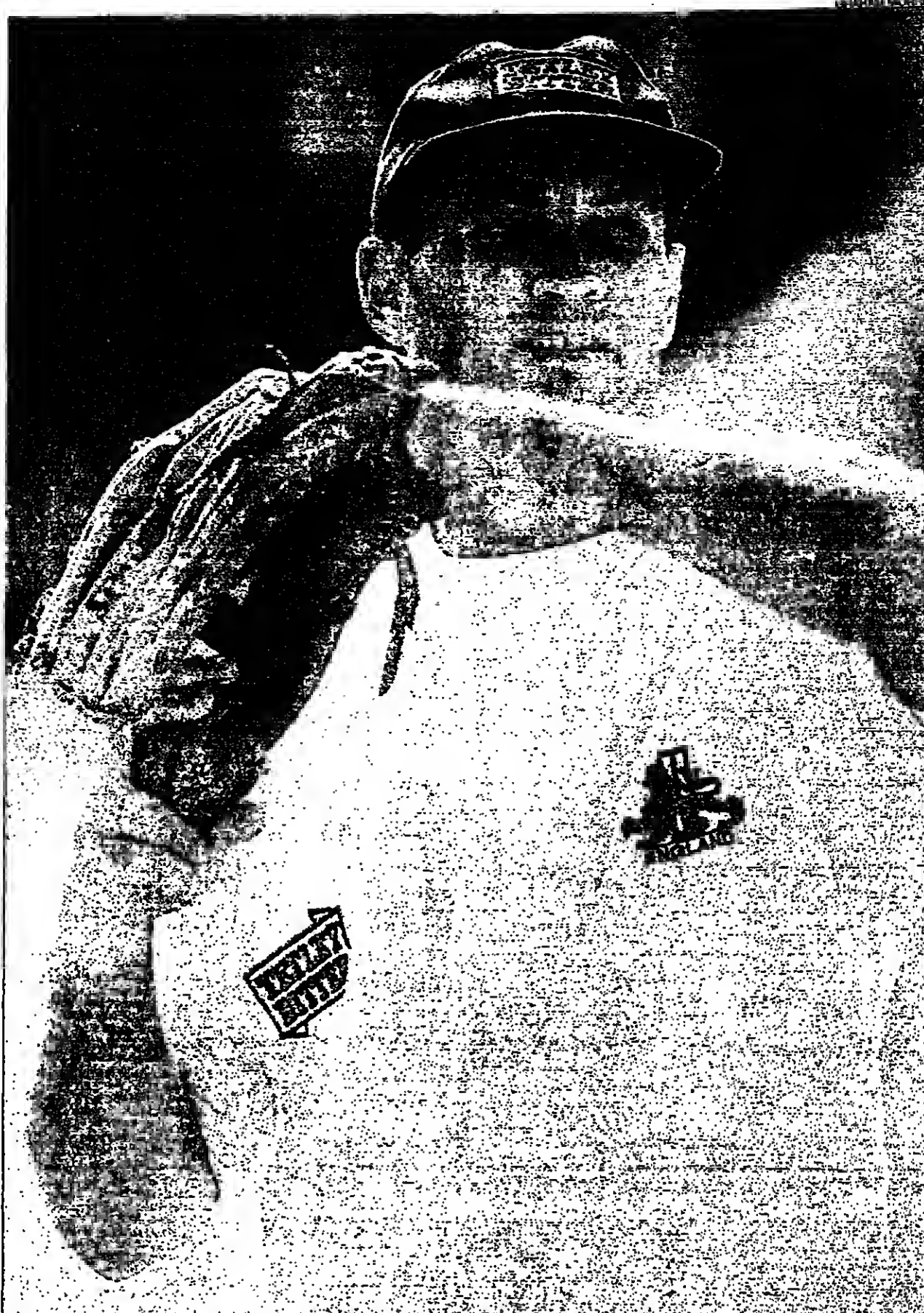
"I've never lost heart," he said, "because I continue to get runs in other games. In the one-day internationals and for Worcestershire. But at times I thought about things too much and worried about things too much."

It reached the point where he talked to the adviser David Gower used for motivation after he had been dropped from the England team and suffered his appalling summer with Hampshire in 1991. That helped Hick to reaffirm the need to think positively, although he still believes that some people are not reconciled to him playing for England. "People are quite happy to see you fail," he said.

"That feeling and the support from being part of the group makes me enjoy touring more than home Test matches. In England, you arrive on your own at 12 o'clock, two days before the game, you practise, you play and then you go away again. And in the evenings everyone goes off doing different things, meeting different people. On tour, everyone is together, you eat together and do the same things together."

If that is helping him feel more relaxed, so has the return of Mike Gatting, who waited 53 innings before scoring his first Test century, against India in Bombay in 1984-5, and then promptly followed it with 207 in Madras. "One big innings is not going to make my career," Hick said, "but it will help get it under way. I don't want to get a hundred then have to wait 18 months for the next."

Cork's appeals, page 32



Beware the fast ball: Hick during a break from nets yesterday. He makes his pitch for Test runs tomorrow

England adopt new look as FA signs £15m kit contract

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

THE England football strip is being revamped after the Football Association yesterday signed a £15 million kit contract with Umbro.

The Cheshire-based company is thereby extending its present agreement with England until 1999 and will pay the FA a £1 million bonus if Graham Taylor's team wins the World Cup in the United States in 1994.

In return, the contract gives Umbro exclusive rights to supply playing and training clothing to England and the rights for highly lucrative replica sales on a worldwide basis. Adults will need to part with £65, their children £45, if they wish to buy replicas of the kit worn by the England team.

Trevor Phillips, the FA's commercial director, said: "This contract extension will bring significant funds into the Football Association which can be channelled into the grass-roots of the game." Umbro believe it to be the most lucrative deal of its kind in world football.

Phillips said he had been negotiating the contract for the last five months. "Agreeing it was hard and tough, but enjoyable," he said. "I am really pleased with this one because whereas the old contract was worth around £1 million a year, this is valued at £2.5 million a year."

Similarly, under this one, England will get an extra £1 million for winning the World Cup and £250,000 for qualifying for the finals in the United States, whereas under the previous agreement the bonus for winning the competition would have been £150,000.

"Aside from the financial side of the deal, we are taking steps to protect our designs from cowboy imitations which have cost us a lot of money in the past."

"Anyone who tries to copy the kit will be legally hurt. We want to be in the same position as the NFL and NBA in the United States, whose products no one dares attempt to imitate cheaply."

The new strip will be worn by England for the first time in the World Cup qualifying tie against San Marino at Wembley next Wednesday. It features old-fashioned "baggy" style navy blue shorts — a significant change in style for Stuart Pearce, the England captain, who favours a shorter cut — with a red trim, with extra badges and logos included on the shirts.

Kit manufacturing companies are frequently criticised for changing their designs and thereby putting pressure on supporters to invest in the latest version. Yet Umbro stressed yesterday that this was the first change to the England strip in three years and the company has guaranteed there will be no further alterations for the same period.

While Phillips said that much of the money generated will be directed to the game's grass roots — coaching



Pearce: changed strip

schemes, women's football and schools football — he also said that a percentage would be invested in the England squad. "They are the peg that the sponsorship hangs on. Without them, there would be no grass roots," he said.

"To get the most out of this sponsorship, I need the players to promote it and the kit and because of this some of the money will end up in the England players' pool. I am very satisfied with this contract. It is something I very much wanted to bring about when I joined the FA last summer."

San Marino team, page 34

Britain's tennis hope takes case to higher court

BY ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THREE television crews and a host of journalists will flock to Eastbourne today to witness the unveiling of that most English of sporting myths, the future Wimbledon champion. The object of attention will be James Baily, from Hampshire, a broad-chested six-footer, who became the first British junior grand slam champion for 27 years when he won the boys title so impressively at the Australian Open ten days ago.

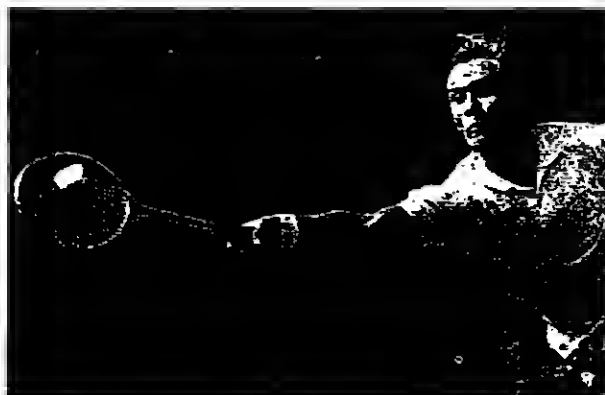
Today, at the age of 18 years and nine days, Baily will take his first step into the senior ranks by playing in a \$50,000 satellite tournament, the lowest form of life on the ATP Tour.

The first leg of the four-week tournament is staged at the David Lloyd centre in

Eastbourne and Baily's quest over the next month will not be for fame or glory, though he has already had his share of both, but computer points, the staple diet of the professional tennis player's life. As Baily will find out all too soon, the competition to get a foot on the bottom rung is far more cutthroat than for \$1 million tournaments contested by multi-millionaires at the top of the tennis ladder.

If Baily is unaware of the expectations his success has aroused — and an appearance on BBC's *Sportsnight* must have given him a clue — he might well heed the words of one of his predecessors in the role of Great White Tennis Hope, Gerald Battrick.

Battrick was the last British junior grand slam champion. In 1965, he beat Manuel Orantes and Zekko



Beyond his reach: Battrick lacked the weight of shot to prosper among the senior players

Frankovic on the way to winning the French Open junior title on clay. Battrick went on to play Davis Cup for Britain and enjoy a fruitful, if not exactly spectacular, career in the game.

Now aged 45, he runs a private tennis school near

Bridgend in south Wales and, after his own experiences, is understandably cautious about Baily's prospects of succeeding in the big time. "It is going to be really tough for him because everyone in this country is desperate for a young player to

come through, and the gap between juniors and seniors is enormous. The Australian Open juniors might prove to be his best tournament, but winning that title will give him confidence," Battrick said.

Battrick recalls driving back from Paris immediately after his 1965 victory to play Tom Okker in the opening round of the Manchester Open the next day. "It was easier to make the change for me because I could get straight into senior tournaments."

"Nowadays, it is all to do with rankings and the competition is very strong. I just hope the media don't put too much pressure on him."

Besides all the attention, conditions in Eastbourne will be far removed from those in Australia. The surface will be quicker, the light worse, the opposition wiser

and the expectations greater. But, though he might have been better off making his senior debut further away from the limelight, Baily will have to be baptised one day and maybe sooner is better than later.

Battrick, who did not have the weight of shot to compete at the highest level, has no regrets about the way his career progressed. He joined World Championship Tennis in the Seventies and later coached profitably in Hamburg before returning to his father's farm to establish his own tennis centre with one indoor and five outdoor courts.

"I got out of the game what I could for someone of my size and stature and I enjoyed it. James [Baily] has a lot of determination and he will need it. But people shouldn't expect too much too soon."

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Today's position is from the game Karotrik — Gonsoir, Czechoslovakia 1992. Black has terrible threats against the white king and so white must act quickly. How did he continue?

Answers page 34

By PHILIP HOWARD

SOLENOGLYPH
a. Shadow writing
b. A Mayan carved sundial
c. A poisonous snake
KEYAKI
a. A code of wrestling
b. Edible worms
c. A pale timber tree

DAMBO

a. A grassy clearing
b. A double pulpit
c. A rice dumpling

PRZEZALSKI
a. A sneeze
b. The Polish waltz
c. A wild horse

Answers on page 32

ACROSS

1 Fat belly (6)
5 Drugs dealer (6)
8 Arm, leg (4)
9 Rabble (8)
10 Parchment roll (6)
12 Smooth-tongued (4)
15 George IV wife (5,8)
16 Pack (4)
17 Three times (6)
19 Lycanthrope (8)
21 Glimmer (4)
22 Insubstantial (6)
23 Fused mislive (6)

DOWN

2 1415 longbow battle (9)
3 Cruz (3)
4 Misfortune (4,4)
5 Quick gust (4)
6 Stray (9)
7 Mischievous being (3)
11 Enquist (9)
13 Blamelessness (9)
14 Appreciative (8)
18 Warm and snug (4)
20 Slippery type (3)
21 Not dry (3)

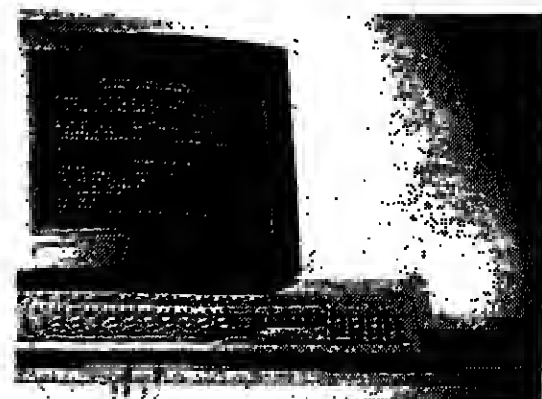
SOLUTIONS TO NO 3017

ACROSS: 1 Footstep 2 Act up 3 Yoko Ono 10 Lee 11 Taiga 12 Someone 14 Eyelet 16 Sprats 20 Absolve 23 Retch 24 Hog 25 Trouble 26 Ousel 27 Richard Wagner

DOWN: 1 Play the martyr 2 Outside 3 Emplace 4 Shyest 5 Oakum 6 Prove 7 Rhodes Scholar 13 Err 15 Leo 17 Peripeteia 18 Artisan 19 Behaved 21 Stole 22 Libra

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